Sunday, February 22, 2026 No 53 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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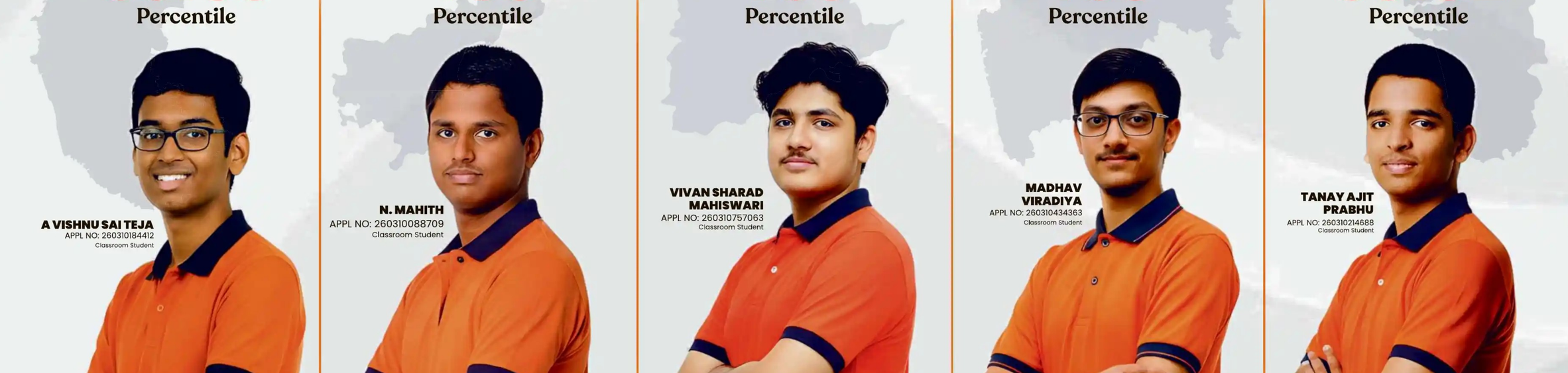

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#YourDreamsAreOurDreams

> During the next short number of months, the Trump administration will determine and issue the new and legally permissible tariffs, which will continue our extraordinarily successful process of Making America Great Again
>
> -Donald Trump, US President

> We have noted the judgment on tariffs yesterday. President Trump has also addressed a press conference in that regard. Some steps have been announced by the US administration. We are studying all these developments
>
> - Union Commerce Ministry

Defiant Trump raises global tariffs to 15%

Ups levies by 5% a day after SC rebuke; India 'studying developments'

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, PTI & DHNS

US President Donald Trump holds a press briefing after the Supreme Court verdict, in Washington. REUTERS

US President Donald Trump on Saturday announced a hike in tariffs on all countries to 15% from 10%, which was imposed a day earlier.

Following a Supreme Court verdict against his earlier sweeping tariffs, Trump on Friday imposed 10% tariffs on all the countries, including India from February 24 for 150 days.

"Based on a thorough, detailed, and complete review of the ridiculous, poorly written, and extraordinarily anti-American decision on Tariffs issued yesterday, after MANY months of contemplation, by the United States Supreme Court, please let this statement serve to represent that I, as President of the United States of America, will be, effective immediately, raising the 10% Worldwide Tariff on Countries, many of which have been "ripping" the US off for decades, without retribution (until I came along!), to the fully allowed, and legally tested, 15% level.

"During the next short number of months, the Trump Administration will determine and issue the new and legally permissible Tariffs, which will continue our extraordinarily successful process of Making America Great Again," he said in a social media post.

Further, a fact sheet issued by the White House said Trump is invoking his authority under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which empowers the President to address certain fundamental international payment problems through surcharges and other special import restrictions.

Meanwhile, in a guarded response to the US Supreme Court judgment on tariffs, the Union Commerce Ministry on Saturday said it is studying the developments and their implications.

"We have noted the US Supreme Court judgment on tariffs yesterday. President Trump has also addressed a press conference in that regard. Some steps have been announced by the US administration. We are studying all these developments for their implications," the ministry said in a statement.

While New Delhi has stated that it is studying the developments, there is no clarity whether it will stick to its commitments made in the framework for the interim trade deal, which has been termed by Opposition parties and analysts as heavily tilted in favour of the US.

The US-India Joint Statement dated February 6 mentions: "In the event of any changes to the agreed upon tariffs of either country, the United States and India agree that the other country may modify its commitments."

The Global Trade Research Institute (GTRI) urged the Government of India to reassess the deal.

"Now that the US tariffs have changed, India should use this clause to either opt out of the or delay negotiations or seek fresh terms so the trade deal looks equitable," said GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava.

The tariffs imposed on India were among the highest at 50%.

It included a 25% punitive tariff for India's economic engagement with Russia. In a trade deal announced earlier this month, the US agreed to lower the tariff to 18%.

In return, the Trump administration has claimed that India has agreed to eliminate tariffs on a majority of American products and stop purchase of Russian oil.

▸ Trump tariffs, Page 3B

Trump calls judges 'fools'

Trump lashed out at the Supreme Court judges who ruled against him, calling them "fools and lapdogs". "The ruling is deeply disappointing, and I'm ashamed of certain members of the court, absolutely ashamed for not having the courage to do what's right for our country," the president said.

Cong asks Centre to renegotiate

With the US top court striking down Trump's tariffs, the Congress on Saturday asked the government to put on hold the India-US interim trade deal and renegotiate its terms to ensure that the interests of farmers are not hurt.
Details on Page 8

Indian-origin lawyer at centre of verdict

At the centre of the verdict striking down the tariffs is an Indian-origin lawyer — Neal Katyal — who argued before the top court on the illegality of the levies. He argued the case on behalf of small businesses and won.
Details on Page 9

BJP MLA caught 'taking Rs 5L bribe'

Lokayukta traps Lamani, 2 PAs on contractor's plaint

GADAG, DHNS

Dr Chandru Lamani and his PAs Manjunath Valmiki and Guru Nayak, who were trapped.

Lokayukta sleuths on Saturday trapped Shirahatti MLA Chandru Lamani and two of his personal assistants while they were allegedly accepting bribe of Rs 5 lakh from a contractor.

According to Lokayukta police sources, Dr Lamani had allegedly demanded Rs 11 lakh as bribe from a contractor in connection with two works of the Minor Irrigation Department. Class-1 contractor Vijay Pujar of Chinchali village of Gadag taluk had lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta police in this regard.

The Lokayukta police trapped the BJP MLA and his personal assistants Manjunath Valmiki and Guru Nayak while they were receiving Rs 5 lakh bribe at Balaji Hospital owned by Lamani, at Laxmeshwar town in the district on Saturday around 2.15 pm.

During the Lokayukta raid, Nayak allegedly threw an envelope containing Rs 50,000 cash into the compound of a private school behind the hospital. The Lokayukta police seized the cash, along with Rs 4.50 lakh found at the hospital, sources added.

Gadag Lokayukta DySP Vijay Biradar, inspector Paramesh Kavatagi and other personnel conducted the raid under the guidance of Lokayukta SP Siddhalingappa.

Booking a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act, Lokayukta officials said Dr Lamani and two others were secured. The MLA would be produced before the people's representatives' special court in Bengaluru after a medical test.

▸ BJP MLA, Page 3B

Byrathi Basavaraj in judicial custody

BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj was on Saturday remanded in judicial custody in connection with the murder of Biklu Shivu. A special court passed the order after his custody period ended. He was shifted to Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.
Details on Page 6

CM's 'will not quit battlefield' post creates buzz

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid the ongoing power tussle within the ruling Congress in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's assertion that he would "not quit the battlefield", has sparked intrigue.

In a series of social media posts, Siddaramaiah said, "I will not quit the battlefield. There have been many conspiracies to finish me politically and they are not just against me but all of you who trust me, love me, and continue to bless and support me. Therefore, I will fight until my last breath against this politics of conspiracy, hatred, and jealousy. I am not a coward who runs away from the battlefield."

Details on Page 6

88 nations adopt New Delhi declaration for equitable AI

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 concluded on Saturday with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, which committed to ensuring that the benefits of AI were "equitably shared across humanity".

In a significant show of global consensus on AI, 88 countries and international organisations — including heavyweights like the United States, United Kingdom, China, France, Russia, and the European Union — adopted the declaration.

The February 16-20 summit, held in the national capital, was extended by a day.

In all, about 118 countries participated in the AI summit, which was the biggest in the Global South. Also in attendance were heads of global giants, who intensely debated global topics in the tech universe — from AI's opportunities and risks to governance and the future of jobs.

The New Delhi Declaration sets out a shared vision for "collaborative, trusted, resilient and efficient AI".

It calls for strengthening international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement while respecting national sovereignty, and emphasises that the benefits of artificial intelligence should be equitably shared.

The Ministry of External Affairs described the outcome as a "significant milestone in global cooperation on AI".

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's human-centric AI vision has been accepted by the world. Democratising AI resources so its facilities, services, and technology can reach everyone in society been accepted by all," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

The declaration advocates for international collaboration in AI, focusing on skill development, affordable access, and the removal of structural barriers to enhance social and economic benefits. It is non-binding, but signals strong political will for collaboration.

Among key outcomes is the Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI, a voluntary framework for expanding affordable access to foundational AI resources and strengthening local innovation.

BJP protest Cong's 'shirtless' demonstration,
Page 8

Thaawarchand Gehlot

Guv seeks financial aid for state varsities

BENGALURU, DHNS: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Saturday sought financial assistance for fund-starved state-run universities in the Budget.

Addressing vice chancellors, the Governor highlighted the fund crunch and shortage of faculty faced by universities and requested Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to consider providing aid and filling up vacancies.

However, the CM later said the world's best universities are surviving without permanent faculties.
Details on Page 4

SC issues directions on solid waste rules

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has issued a slew of pan-India directions to ensure enforcement of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, saying its neglect will affect health as much as the economy, since uncollected and unaccounted solid waste is a perennial challenge in the country.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and S V N Bhatti said that the present generation cannot afford to wait for further legislative refinement while existing implementation gaps persist, while noting "uneven" compliance with the rules across India.

The bench pointed out that courts have repeatedly reminded that the state has a duty to protect the environment and thereby to ensure the well-being of all the citizens.
Details on Page 8

India, Brazil eye $30 bn trade target by 2030

NEW DELHI, PTI

India and Brazil on Saturday set an annual bilateral trade target of $30 billion by 2030 even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva discussed implications of the US Supreme Court striking down Trump administration's reciprocal tariffs.

Following wide-ranging talks between Modi and Lula, the two sides signed nine pacts including one on cooperation in areas of rare earth minerals and another on forging a futuristic digital partnership.

Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs P Kumaran said at a media briefing that there was a discussion between the two sides on US trade policy and the implications of the US supreme court judgement.

"Both leaders agreed that it is a rather new development that both sides need to study its implications and wait for further developments by the US administration," he said.

"We will be essentially in wait and watch mode on how the administration responds to this judgment and whether any further steps are taken and to study the implications for our trade," he said.

Kumaran said Modi and Lula agreed that the bilateral trade should be doubled to $30 billion by 2030.

In their talks, the two leaders vowed to shore up bilateral ties in a range of other sectors including defence, energy, healthcare and digital public infrastructure while emphasising on deeper India-Brazil strategic engagement.

Lula is in India on a five-day visit from February 18 primarily to attend the AI Impact Summit and hold talks with Modi.

In 2024-25, India-Brazil trade volume reached $12 billion, with Indian exports amounting to $6.77 billion and imports from Brazil totaling $5.43 billion.

PM Modi with Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in New Delhi. AFP

FAIR FLAIR

Artistes perform during a procession at the Mandi Maha Shivratri Fair in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, on Saturday. PTI

Flight disruptions: IndiGo replaces operations head

NEW DELHI, PTI: IndiGo has appointed Captain Rohit Rikhye as the new Head of Operations Control Centre (OCC) in place of Jason Herter, the first rejig at the airline's senior management level after the massive operational disruptions in December last year.

In January, aviation regulator DGCA took various actions against the airline, including imposing penalties totalling Rs 22 crore and asking dismissal of a senior vice-president, in relation to the operational disruptions. In an internal communication on Friday, the airline said Rohit Rikhye has been appointed as the Head of OCC with immediate effect.

He would report to Chief Operating Officer (COO) Isidre Porqueras.

Dalit couple forced out of temple in Tumakuru district; one arrested

TURUVEKERE (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: A newly married Dalit couple was allegedly forced out of a temple in Turuvekere taluk recently.

On February 19, Puneeth and Pankaja, who had entered wedlock a week before, went to the Adishakti Arasamma temple in Goni Tumakuru village when some people belonging to the Vokkaliga community objected to the couple entering the temple.

Jagadish, elder brother of Pankaja, lodged a complaint at the Turuvekere police station alleging that they were denied temple entry and humiliated in the name of caste.

The police have registered a case against seven people under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and arrested a man.

Revenue officials and police held a peace meeting with villagers on Friday.

REVISED ROLLS

State	Voters*	After SIR	Net Change	% change
Gujarat	5,08,43,436	4,40,30,725	68,12,711	13.40
Rajasthan	5,46,56,215	5,15,19,929	31,36,28e6	5.74
MP	5,74,06,143	5,39,81,065	34,25,078	5.96
Chhattisgarh	2,12,30,737	1,87,30,914	24,99,823	11.77
Kerala	2,78,50,855	2,69,53,644	8,97,211	3.22
Goa	11,85,034	10,57,566	1,27,468	10.76
Lakshadweep	57,813	57,607	206	0.36
Puducherry	10,21,578	9,44,211	77,367	7.5
A&N Islands	3,10,404	2,58,040	52,364	16.87
TOTAL	21,45,62,215	19,75,33,701	1,70,28,514	7.93

*as on Oct 27, 2025

SIR: 1.7 cr voters out after final rolls of 9 states, UTs published

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Final electoral rolls in nine of the 12 states and Union Territories that underwent the Special Intensive Revision of voters' list recently have shrunk by 7.93% or 1.70 crore voters, with Gujarat reporting the highest proportion of net deletion at 13.4% and Kerala the least at 3.22% among bigger states.

The number of voters in Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were pegged at 21,45,62,215 at the start of SIR on October 27, 2025, but it has come down to 19,75,33,701 with a net deletion of 1,70,28,514.

While the rolls of Puducherry and Lakshadweep were out on February 14 and Gujarat on February 17, the voters' lists of six others were published on Saturday.

If one takes Bihar, where the SIR was conducted last year ahead of the Assembly elections, also into account, the net deletions will come to 2.16 crore or 7.37%. The electoral roll in Bihar shrunk from 7.89 crore in June 2025 to 7.43 crore in September 2025.

The rolls of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and UP — where the SIR started with the other nine states and UTs — will come later. The Tamil Nadu list will come on Monday while parts of the West Bengal list will come on February 28 and the remaining after judicial scrutiny. The UP list will come on April 6.

▸ SIR, Page 3B

WANTON ACT

SUV owner with pending EMIs knocks down recovery agents

DH SPECIAL

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

SINISTER INTENT

The Sadashivanagar traffic police initially registered a case of hit-and-run

- However, during the investigation, the police examined CCTV footage, and learnt that the act was deliberate
- The suspect had allegedly defaulted on EMIs for nearly 45 months amounting to Rs 7.2 lakh
- The agents had reportedly gone to trace and seize the vehicle as part of recovery proceedings
- The driver, aware of their intent, allegedly followed their motorcycle and then crashed into them before escaping

Two employees of a private finance firm, who were initially believed to have been victims of a hit-and-run case, were allegedly mowed down by the owner a Toyota Fortuner, which had long-pending EMIs, in Sadashivanagar.

A senior police officer said the incident was reported on December 18, 2025, around 1.50 pm on 8th Main Road in Sadashivanagar when Ramesh P (42) and his colleague Murali (45), both working as loan recovery agents with a private finance company, were riding a motorcycle when a Toyota Fortuner allegedly rammed into them from behind. Murali, who was riding the bike, sustained multiple injuries, while Ramesh suffered fractures. Both were rushed to a private hospital.

The Sadashivanagar traffic police initially registered a case of hit-and-run. However, during the investigation, the police verified the vehicle registration number and examined CCTV footage, and learnt that the act was deliberate.

The case was then transferred to the law and order police for further investigation, and a case of attempt to murder was registered against the accused driver, who is a realtor and resident of Sankey Road.

The Fortuner was registered in the name of a private company in Vijayapura district and was later sold to a Bengaluru-based realtor, who had allegedly defaulted on equated monthly instalments (EMIs) for nearly 45 months amounting to Rs 7.2 lakh.

On the day of the incident, Ramesh and Murali had reportedly gone to trace and seize the vehicle as part of recovery proceedings. The driver, aware of their intent, allegedly followed their motorcycle and then crashed into them before escaping.

Speaking to *DH*, complainant Ramesh P said that this was not the first time the driver had been involved in such an incident.

"Our manager had alerted us to be careful, as he targets recovery agents soon after they approach him for dues. Later, I came to know that he was involved in at least three similar confrontations earlier, though no formal complaints were registered at the time. I have already spent more than Rs 2 lakh on treatment myself so far and Murali was admitted as an inpatient and his ribs were broken due to the impact," he said.

Driver absconding

The suspect, who was driving the car, left the city soon after the incident and is absconding in a neighbouring state, according to the police, who have not disclosed his name. A police team has been sent to trace the accused.

Bengaluru Sunday, February 22, 2026 Pages 26 Vol 79 No 53 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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India break duck Down Under

Smriti, Jemimah and Shreyanka shine in 2-1 series win

P10

Big Picture

Metabolic muddle

India is facing a silent crisis where "healthy-looking" bodies mask hidden diseases undetected by standard tests

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Travel
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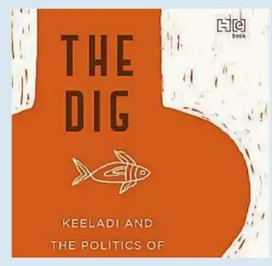
Dutch whisper

From old world windmills to flower gardens, Breukelen lets you enjoy all the perks of a slow vacation

Books
Page15



Key to Keeladi

A new book delves into the political battles over history that continue to influence our understanding of India's past

Food & Drink
Page17

Stir it up

Indian bars are experimenting with meat-based flavours in their cocktails much like bars across Southeast Asia

Today's issue includes

DH Classifieds Supplement

Scarred by sand: Rivers, farms, future under strain from mining

The unchecked, illegal trade in the critical resource that powers the construction industry has ravaged rivers, devastated villages, and drained the public exchequer

PAVAN KUMAR H & VITTAL SHASTRI
BAGALKOT/RAICHUR, DHNS

Eight months ago, Sanjay Kamble, a farmer from Sambaragi village near Belagavi, was guiding his bullock cart across the shallow Savala stream when the cart suddenly plunged into a crater in the middle of the riverbed. His three sons were also with him. A week earlier, illegal sand miners had dug a 20-foot-deep pit there but the waters had concealed it. "I failed to notice the pit created by sand mining and drove over it. Within seconds my two sons, aged seven and nine, fell into the pit and were washed away. I could save only my 11-year-old son," says Kamble.

It is still unclear who dug the pit on the riverbed, where sand mining is strictly prohibited. The family lives in constant fear that such a tragedy could happen again if indiscriminate sand extraction continues.

Shivappa Hadapad, a farmer near Hungund in the neighbouring Bagalkot district, is reluctant to lease his two acres next to Hirehalla for sand mining. But he feels pressured to give in, as influential people have already leased land from his neighbours.

"Even if I refuse, they will still dig into my land. If I agree, at least I get paid," he says. Once miners extract the sand, his land remains unusable for the next three monsoons or until the topsoil settles. In many cases, deep mining leaves the land permanently infertile.

In districts like Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Koppal and Yadgir, there is a growing trend of farmers being lured or pressured into turning their fertile fields on the riverbanks and streams into 'sand points'. By removing just a few feet of topsoil, miners can access tonnes of sand deposits accumulated over centuries from these lands next to streams and rivers.

On paper, sand miners claim to extract sand only from farmers' patta land after paying royalty. In most cases, however, illegal mining spreads to neighbouring lands or, worse, into streams and riverbeds. Another concern for farmers is that miners rarely follow the rules of digging just five metres. At several sand points *DH* visited, pits were found to be 18-25 feet deep.

Sridhar Dastari, a farmer from Kithali village on Malaprabha bank near Badami, says the miners breach the banks of the river to flood fields after monsoon. "They divert the river water into the fields, so the river deposits sand here and also helps remove impurities," he says. Sridhar adds such lands become unsuitable for cultivation afterwards.

Illegal sand mining is common along the basins of the Krishna, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Bhima, Vedavati, Netravati, Panchagangavali, Sita, Hemavati and Kaveri rivers. It also occurs on several streams in 18 districts. It has a cascading impact on revenue, livelihoods and the environment in these regions.

Sources in the Mines and Geology department told *DH* that on an average Karnataka requires nearly 75 lakh metric tonnes to one crore metric tonnes of sand per year for its construction industry. On average, the state produces about 5 lakh metric tonnes of natural sand legally.

▸ Illegal sand mining, Page 2

Villagers oppose illegal sand extraction at the sand block in the Krishna riverbed at Karkihalli village in Riachur's Devadurg taluk. DH PHOTO/VITTAL SHASTRI

INSIGHT

Spending without impact could widen inequalities

Without decentralisation and accountability, more funding may fail to improve development outcomes

PROF R S DESHPANDE & DR KHALIL SHAHA

The findings of the Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee, led by Professor Govinda Rao, are concerning, as they indicate that the over Rs 32,610 crore spent since 2007 on regional development has yielded limited results. However, there is no clue in the report about how this happened.

Based on the earlier Dr Nanjundappa Committee's recommendations, three Boards were set up to reduce regional disparities. However, they have not achieved the expected results. The report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India 2022 strongly criticised the performance of these Boards, which may have led to the formation of the current committee to re-examine the issue.

The new findings appear to support the CAG's criticism and questions the government's efforts over the past two decades. According to the data, the number of backward taluks has increased from 118 out of 175 (67%) identified earlier to 177 out of 236 (75%). This means nearly three-quarters of the state is now classified as backward taluks just by distributing 236 taluks into four groups mechanically.

Although the earlier committee had some flaws in its method, the current report also seems to have many shortcomings. Instead of simply identifying backward taluks again, as indicated in the summary report, the focus should have been on understanding why previous government efforts failed. Identifying these root causes could have helped design better, more targeted solutions.

Out of 236 taluks in the state, the Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee has categorised 59 as 'most backward', 59 as 'more backward', 59 as 'backward' and the remaining 59 as 'developed'.
FILE PHOTO BY B M KEDARNATH

The SUNDAY STORY

Key question

The key question now is: will the new policy proposals finally solve the problem, or will regional backwardness persist due to deeper, long-standing structural issues? There is no mention about this in the summary.

The committee calculated the "Average Composite Outcome Scores" (or Index) to measure backwardness, following a method used by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), as outlined in the summary report. These scores are supposed to show the adequacy of the indicator used for underdevelopment. However, the committee's calculations are questionable and warrant closer scrutiny.

They seem to have relied heavily on methods from the UNDP Human Development Index, which focus primarily on income per person, education, and health, even assigning arbitrary weights of 0.25 in the numerator and 1.10 in the denominator. But they seem to have overlooked an important original paper by well-known statisticians Prof N S Iyengar and P Sudarshan (published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, 1982). Actually, that study provided a detailed method for assigning weights to different indicators and for combining them statistically. Consulting that work could have improved their approach.

▸ Regional imbalance, Page 2

Quickly

Stone laid for HCL, Foxconn chip unit

HCL Group and Foxconn on Saturday laid the foundation stone for a chip manufacturing unit, which is expected to be operational by 2028, in UP's Jewar. The two companies have announced Rs 3,700-crore investment in the joint venture facility, which can process 20,000 wafers per month.
Details on Page 7

Adani mulls restarting F1 in Greater Noida

The Adani Group is working on strategies to restart the Formula 1 motor sport at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, Karan Adani, the Director of Adani Cement said on Saturday. According to official sources, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited the circuit and held talks with officials.
Details on Page 10

10 killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon

At least 10 people were killed and 50 wounded in Israeli strikes in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, two security sources told Reuters, after the Israeli military said it had targeted Hezbollah sites in the Baalbek area. The strikes on Friday risk testing a fragile US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Shi'ite Islamist group Hezbollah.
Details on Page 9

Promo of Rajni-Kamal film launched

In a major development that has sent film fans into a frenzy, production house Red Giant Movies on Saturday officially launched the first promotional video for the historic reunion of superstars Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, ending nearly four decades of wait.

Ajit Pawar death: Nephew flags conspiracy

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar has alleged the Baramati plane crash that led to the death of his uncle and former Dy CM Ajit Pawar was linked to influential people. He also reiterated his demand for the removal of the Civil Aviation Minister till the crash probe is over.
Details on Page 8

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LIC/P1/2025-26/32/Eng

Monitoring gaps fuel sand theft

Illegal sand mining, from P1

Another 45 lakh metric tonnes comes from the 900-odd units of manufactured sand (M-sand). The deficit of 25 lakh metric tonnes, which is the root cause of the problem, is primarily fulfilled by the illegal sand mafia.

Every year, based on the availability of sand on the banks of rivers, the Sand Monitoring Committee opens sand blocks across the state. These blocks are specific locations identified by the committee (based on sand accumulation) from which licensed sand miners are authorised to extract sand. According to the department, there are over 650 sand blocks across Karnataka and for 2025-26, the department had called tenders for 338 sand blocks on the banks of rivers and streams. Despite these regulatory efforts, illegal extraction continues to flourish.

Experts warn that over-exploitation of sand could lead to severe social and economic consequences, such as altering the natural flow of rivers, increasing the risk of flooding during the monsoons and reduced groundwater recharge in surrounding areas, impacting water availability for drinking and agriculture. A study by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru found that excessive sand mining had caused a 64% depletion of groundwater in Kolar.

Home Minister G Parameshwara's recent statement in the Legislative Assembly highlighted the seriousness of the situation. He says, "Big people from all parties are involved in illegal sand extraction. Illegal sand mining is a big racket. I am not giving any explanation or naming anyone, as it is a little embarrassing. I have given only a restricted answer, but it involves many influential people. I will call a meeting to discuss the issue." Experts and activists point out the impunity with which the sand mafia operates and the failure of successive governments to curb it.

"Political patronage and the non-utilisation of powers by government officials to prevent the theft of natural resources are the main reasons why the sand mafia is still thriving in Karnataka," says political activist Deepak.

By the government's own admission in the Assembly in 2019, the state lost an estimated Rs 200 crore in revenue due to illegal sand mining.

On paper, the state government has formulated several rules and regulations to ensure that sand is available at affordable prices and that the gram panchayats where the sand originates benefit from these natural resources. The Karnataka Sub-Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules–2021, complement the New Sand Policy–2020, which aimed to regulate sand mining and distribution in a more accessible, affordable and transparent manner. The policy also empowered gram panchayats to issue extraction licenses and receive a royalty of Rs 300 to Rs 400 per tonne. However, licensed sand miners claim that the government has made the process of obtaining permission for legal extraction and transport so complicated that it is practically difficult to earn a profit through legal mining.

A Chitradurga-based licensed sand miner, speaking on condition of anonymity, says that one must obtain a no-objection certificate from at least six departments. A total of 13 departments, including Mines and Geology, Revenue, Forest, and Police, which can monitor sand extraction and transport. "You have to keep all the officials and local MLAs 'happy' just to carry out sand mining, even in licenced blocks," he claimed.

He added that if a tonne of sand is sold for Rs 1,500, nearly 85% of the revenue goes towards royalty, permits, government fees, labour, transport, land lease and other expenses.

"In illegal mining, one needs to appease only a few officials and elected representatives, and the profit margin can be as high as 60%," he added. Officially, a tractor load of three tonnes of sand should be sold for Rs 5,265; however, people are forced to pay around Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 to procure the same sand from the grey market.

Taking cognisance of the situation, the Karnataka High Court, recently, took up a suo motu case on illegal sand extraction, and the Lokayukta conducted raids at multiple locations across the state. Following this, a majority of the illegal sand-mining sites have become non-operational. However, many villagers say the activities usually resume once the issue dies down.

No tab on sand mining

Between 2020-21 and December 2025, the Mines and Geology department registered 1,511 cases of illegal sand mining and collected Rs 48.5 crore fines from violators. Each year, the department also books an average of 2,900 cases of illegal sand transport and collects approximately Rs 71 crore as penalty. Multiple senior geologists in the department confirmed to *DH* that the official cases registered account for less than 5% of the total illegal sand mining taking place in Karnataka.

"We usually conduct raids after receiving a tip-off from a rival gang, and most of the time, the illegal extraction site is run by an influential person, who ensures that either no case is filed or only minor charges are imposed," says a geologist from north Karnataka.

Mines and Geology Department Additional Director Mahantesh T says, "We have identified illegal sand mining activities in several parts of North Karnataka. However, there are many hurdles in manually estimating the quantity of sand extracted illegally. The depth of the pits formed in the riverbed and the volume of sand removed cannot be accurately measured by human observation alone. The exact scale of illegal sand mining can only be assessed using drone cameras or other sophisticated methods. We have submitted a proposal to higher authorities to conduct a comprehensive survey in Kagina riverbed in Chittapur through the National Remote Sensing Agency," he added.

A Range Forest Officer in Vijayapura still recalls the humiliation his team faced while trying to prevent illegal sand mining. "We were overpowered by goons at the Krishna River on the Belagavi-Vijayapura border. They were illegally extracting sand from a reserve forest area, and when we tried to stop them, they tied up my subordinates and snatched my service gun and belt," he recounts about the incident in 2023. Eventually, he was transferred to another place.

On June 1, 2023, a constable attached to Nelogi Police Station in Kalaburagi's Narayanpur village lost his life after a tractor driver, allegedly transporting illegal sand, ran him over. In Raichur's Cheekalaparvi village, a village accountant was run over by a truck driver in 2018 for asking to see a license for sand transport.

The sand mafia poses a serious threat to local activists as well. Raichur-based activist Hanumanth Bhangi, who has been fighting illegal sand mining in the Krishna basin for years, says he has received repeated threats for filing public interest litigations against the trade. "Excessive sand mining has caused groundwater depletion and environmental degradation in the region. Despite several raids by officials, the mafia continues. I was even attacked by illegal sand miners when I tried to intervene," he says.

H Sashidar Shetty of the National Environment Care Federation (NECF) which is leading a campaign against illegal sand mining in coastal Karnataka, says the practice is rampant along the banks of the Phalguni River and in Mulki taluk. "Around 75% of sand mining on the coast is illegal. The Lokayukta, in a report, noted illegal sand mining at 39 locations across Bantwal, Belthangady and Mangaluru taluks. Yet, no comprehensive action has been implemented," he says.

Ways of sand mining

Illegal sand mining occurs in multiple ways: licence holders often extract sand beyond their sanctioned limits, use banned heavy machinery, operate in prohibited areas such as CRZ zones, forest land, streams and riverbeds, transport sand without valid transit passes (including multiple uses of the same pass), evade royalty payments and most importantly, carry out excavation at night.

Gopi Krishna, a senior geologist in Raichur, says the government provides 25% of the royalty collected from a sand extraction block to the gram panchayat, which is responsible for repairing damaged roads. "The District Mineral Foundation, comprising district officials, has been working on local community welfare and environmental restoration in villages affected by sand mining," he says.

Countering the officer, Mahadevamma, vice-president of Karkihalli Gram Panchayat, says that the Rs 2.20 crore royalty collected by the panchayat in 2025-26 has been distributed among the nine villages under its jurisdiction. "We cannot use our share of the royalty for road repairs, as that falls under the responsibility of the PWD and Zilla Panchayat. The amount is far too small for such work. Our top priority is to stop illegal sand mining and protect the health of local residents," she says.

Experts warn that extracting river sand without a scientific assessment of the permissible annual extraction levels is risky. Excessive removal lowers riverbeds, reduced summer river flows and lowers local water tables. Deep mining can also alter river courses and destabilise banks, increasing erosion and the risk of flooding during heavy rains.

Scientist M D Subhash Chandran, who has done extensive research on Sharavathi and Aghanashini rivers in Uttara Kannada, says sand-bed plays a very important role in maintaining river ecology. He explained that excessive sand extraction can cause mud to block the riverbed, reducing groundwater recharge in neighbouring areas. "Overexploitation of sand also increases the exposure of heavy metals into the river affecting both humans and aquatic life," he warned.

"Illegal sand extraction through machines in the Aghanashini and Sharavathi has severely affected the production of edible bivalve and also the livelihoods of bivalve collectors," says Diwakar Naik, a member of the Balachu (Bivalves) Sangrahakarara Sangha in Aghanashini. He says unregulated sand mining disrupts this fragile ecology.

Studies have also shown that over exploitation of sand has resulted in displacement of species and change in habitat. A study conducted by Kuvempu University's Department of PG Studies and Research in Wildlife and Management on otters in Tungabhadra river showed that sand mining areas adversely impacted the lifecycle of otters as availability of food started depleting in the region. "An entire food chain is dependent on the presence of sand in rivers. If this is removed it could lead to difficulties in survival of species," says Vijaya Kumar, Head of the Research centre at the University.

Sand extraction is also threatening public infrastructure, including roads and bridges. Activists in Harihara warned that excessive sand mining in the Tungabhadra is putting the bridge across the river at risk.

Residents of Karkihalli village in Raichur's Devadurg taluk say that the daily movement of hundreds of sand-laden tippers has severely damaged the village mud road.

(With inputs from Harsha in Mangaluru and S K Nrupathunga in Davangere)

> The entire government machinery appears complicit in illegal sand mining in Raichur. Those involved are extracting natural resources flouting all rules. I raised the issue only after farmers complained. If goons can muster courage to assault a sitting MLA for preventing illegalities, it speaks volumes about the power this sand mafia yields. Neither me nor my family is involved in the sand business.
>
> **Karemma G Nayak,** Devadurga MLA (Raichur)

> The department is contemplating constituting a state-level panel to address illegal sand mining. The issues vary across districts and so, suggestions of the district administration, police and public would be sought.
>
> **S S Mallikarjun**
> Minister of Mines and Geology

From extraction to exploitation

- Sand is the second most used natural resource after water and the most mined material globally
- Regulation and administration of sand comes under the purview of the state government
- In Karnataka, sand is sourced from riverbed, flood plain, lakes, reservoirs, coastal sand, agriculture fields, palaeo-channels and manufactured sand (M-sand)

- Between 2020 and 2025, Karnataka recorded nearly 20,000 cases and collected Rs 51.36 crore fine related to illegal sand extraction, transportation, storage and filter sand

THE DEMAND-SUPPLY GAP

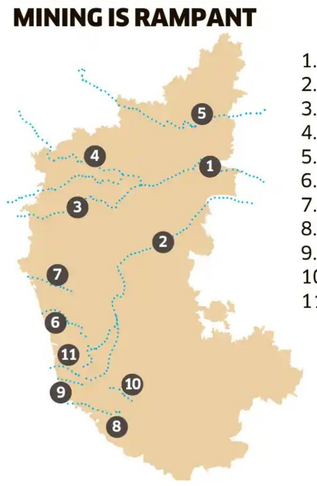
Annual demand for sand in State: ~75 lakh to 1 crore metric tonne

Total supply of sand: ~50 lakh metric tonne

M sand:	River sand:	Deficiency:
~45 lakh metric tonnes	~5 lakh metric tonnes	~25 lakh to 50 lakh metric tonnes

Current sand prices in state: ~Rs 1,500 per tonne (excluding taxes)

RIVERS WHERE SAND MINING IS RAMPANT



1. Krishna
2. Tungabhadra
3. Malaprabha
4. Ghataprabha
5. Bhima
6. Sharavathi
7. Aghanashini
8. Netravati
9. Swarna
10. Phalguni
11. Sita

Dakshina Kannada, Koppal lead in unregulated sand mining

- **Dakshina Kannada** recorded the highest number of illegal sand mining cases in the last two years followed by **Koppal, Udupi, Shivamogga, Gadag, Haveri** and **Bagalkot**
- **Koppal** recorded the highest illegal sand extraction, with nearly **2.59 lakh metric tonnes** mined in 2023-24 and 1.4 lakh metric tonnes in 2024-25
- In 2023-24, **Dakshina Kannada, Bagalkot, Gadag, Belagavi, Koppal** and **Hosapete** accounted for **99.5%** of illegally mined sand, while in 2024-25, **99.09%** came from **Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, Koppal** and **Gadag**
- Nearly **12 districts** reported **no illegal** sand mining cases in 2023-24, while **15 districts** recorded **zero cases** in 2024-25

Common forms of illegal practices

- Mining without any permit
- Extracting beyond sanctioned limits
- Mining in prohibited zones
- Using heavy machinery where banned
- Transporting sand without valid transit pass
- Evading royalty payments
- Night-time clandestine operations

How illegal sand mining affects us

Biodiversity: Impacts of related ecosystems. For e.g., fisheries

Land losses: Both inland and coastal through erosion

Hydrological function: Change in water flows, flood regulation and marine currents

Water supply: Through lowering of water table and pollution

Infrastructures: Damage to bridges, river embankments and coastal infrastructures

Climate: Directly through transport emissions, indirectly through cement production

Landscape: Coastal erosion, changes in deltaic structures, quarries, pollution of rivers

Extreme events: Decline of protection against extreme events (flood, drought, storm surge)

2021-22 witnessed the peak in illegal sand mining cases

Year	Number of cases	FIR filed	Fine collected (in lakh Rs)
2020-21	293	72	82.55
2021-22	326	84	113.93
2022-23	239	63	92.43
2023-24	300	109	120.1
2024-25	219	126	75.98
2025-26*	134	78	97.98

Nearly 3,000 illegal sand transportation cases annually

Year	Illegal sand transportation cases	Illegal sand stock cases	Filter sand extraction cases
2020-21	2,866	288	5
2021-22	2,949	261	31
2022-23	2,864	303	16
2023-24	3,355	411	10
2024-25	2,944	341	3
2025-26*	**1,782**	**164**	**8**

* Till Dec 2025 end

Source: Legislative Council reply, Mines & Geology Department data, World Economic Forum, UN report

COMPILED BY **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI & CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI** DH ILLUSTRATION: **SAGAR M S**

Regional imbalance, from Page 1

Will new policies end backwardness or mask structural failures?

The Committee assigned weights to each sector instead of indicators, assuming their impact on development is uniform across intra-sectoral indicators.

Regarding these weights, they state, "Thus, the primary sector is assigned a weight of seven per cent, secondary and tertiary sectors are assigned weights of 53 per cent, and both economic and social infrastructure are assigned 20 per cent each." However, not all the indicators have the same effect; things like irrigated area, fertiliser use, mechanisation, share of commercial crops and market density influence development differently.

Similarly, combining the secondary and tertiary sectors into a single 53% weight ignores the fact that individual indicators in these sectors have different impacts. The chosen weights also affect the calculation of the "Outcome Index of Income, Health, and Education."

Additionally, the committee used per capita income estimates at the taluk level, which were based on only a few indicators. Hence, the index is likely to show a strong correlation with per capita income across taluks.

Second, the Committee mainly used the UNDP method to calculate the "Outcome Index of Income, Health, and Education" and to create specific indices for all 236 talukas. This approach is rather rudimentary and doesn't employ more refined or rigorous methods, such as those used by the Nanjundappa Committee or by researchers such as Dandekar, Kelkar, Vidwans, Kundu, and Dadibhavi.

After calculating the outcome index, the committee simplistically divided the 236 taluks into four groups. The group with the lowest composite index, consisting of 59 taluks, is termed "Most Deficient". The next 59 taluks are labelled "More Deficient", followed by "Deficient" for the third quartile, and "Adequate" or "Developed" for the last 59 taluks in the highest quartile. This method is very straightforward, and the committee notes that "Our classification of backwardness/development into quartile groups of taluks in terms of Most Backward, More Backward, Backward and Developed is in relative terms".

A better approach would have been to first identify fully developed urban taluks and exclude them from the series, allowing a clearer focus on underdeveloped areas. Using a method based on normative standards and measuring the gap or backlog between what was needed and what is available—would have provided a deeper understanding of backwardness.

Third, the summary does not specify whether the data covers multiple years (a time series) or only a few years. Using data over several decades would have given a clearer, dynamic picture of backwardness.

Writing on regional inequalities in Maharashtra, S M Vidwans, the former director of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of Maharashtra, pointed out that the approach should be based on growth, and the growth in indicators for the backward taluks should be driven by the level of investment aimed at achieving higher levels in a given period. Differences in growth rates could then help identify and correct disparities between regions.

Finally, the committee outlines six policy priorities. It recommends first focusing on social and physical infrastructure and then on building capacity and empowering communities. The committee highlights the need to increase capacity in sectors with a high multiplier effect on employment and income, while also considering available resources.

Given the country's open economy, policies should aim to create wide-ranging benefits that boost overall economic activity. The government should encourage private sector growth and support key economic drivers.

The committee estimated a total expenditure of Rs 43,914 crore over five years. Healthcare was given the highest priority at 26.8%, followed by irrigation at 22.8%, teacher appointments at 17.85%, and school education at 10.48%.

The committee's suggestion to eliminate most regional development boards highlights a serious administrative failure. This raises an important question: what alternative remains? Evidence suggests that these institutions have often acted more as political tools than as drivers of development—a systemic flaw at the heart of the problem.

If this structural weakness is not addressed, future funding risks being wasted through inefficiency, potentially worsening rather than reducing backwardness. The committee rightly cautioned that without decentralisation and accountability, even rising revenues can mask rather than address growing regional disparities.

(Prof R S Deshpande is Former Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Dr Khalil Shaha is Faculty at ISEC)

TROUBLED WATERS Despite huge investments, most lakes remain in Class D and E categories

Bengaluru's 'thousand lakes' legacy faces water quality crisis

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a city once celebrated as the "land of a thousand lakes", even the last remaining lakes are struggling to breathe.

Between April and November 2025, nearly four in ten monitored lakes in Bengaluru fell into Class E, the poorest water quality category, every single month, according to official Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources (MINARS) data. In all, samples were collected from 149 lakes.

The average condition of lakes across the eight months was 59.5% (Class D) and 40.5% (Class E). The worst month was May 2025, when 46.6% of tested lakes fell into Class E. Not one sampled lake reached Class A, B or C standards, which are categories fit for drinking water (with treatment), bathing or conventional potable supply.

Among the lakes, Vengaihnakere in Mahadevapura, Kannur Lake on Hennur Road, and Rayasandra Tank in Sarjapura are in the worst condition. These indicate continuous sewage inflow. Yelamallapa Chetty, Chikkagubbi, Madiwala, Varthur, Munekolalu, Bandematta, Hosakerehalli and Machohalli are no better. What's more, lakes such as Ulsoor, Jakkur and Yelahanka are also no better despite generous funding.

For perspective, fecal coliform content is as high as 1.40 lakh MPN/100 ml in Hosakerehalli Lake. That is 280 times higher than the Central Pollution Control Board's bathing standard (500). In comparison, Sankey Tank fares better (225 MPN/100 ml found) and Kengeri Lake, at 43 MPN/100 ml, ranks among the best.

The MINARS data, published on the official website of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, indicates that rainfall provided only temporary relief, while core pollution sources, be it domestic sewage or industrial effluents, remain unaddressed.

In Bengaluru, the responsibility of supplying Cauvery water and managing domestic sewage rests with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), while the five newly carved municipal corporations are in charge of the lakes and all types of stormwater drains (SWDs).

Most waterbodies in Bengaluru show fecal coliform levels several times higher than prescribed standards. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Paradox of investment

The persistence of poor water quality comes despite a decade of heavy capital spending on the construction of large-scale sewage treatment plants (STPs), rejuvenation of lakes, remodelling of SWDs and construction of sewage diversion channels in lakes. Yet, all the waterbodies in Bengaluru have fecal coliform content several times higher than the prescribed standards.

The highest concentration of poor-performing lakes was observed in the city's outskirts, especially Mahadevapura. Several lakes in this region fluctuated between Class D and Class E, suggesting chronic sewage inflow.

Kochur Shankar, a resident of Horamavu, said a large part of KR Puram has Cauvery and sanitary lines, but houses continue to use septic tanks because the BWSSB is yet to start linking individual houses. "This is because the STP in Kalkere is too small to handle the load. The BWSSB is upgrading the capacity of the existing plant. Until that happens, a lot of sewage will flow into the drains and lakes," he said.

Going by the number of STPs working and proposed, lakes in Bengaluru should be sewage-free by 2029. Ramprasath Manohar, chairman of the BWSSB, said STPs currently treat about 1,348 million litres of sewage. "In the next two months, the infrastructure capacity for treating sewage will go up by 628 MLD. On top of that, we have proposed an additional nine STPs capable of treating 535 MLD of sewage," he said, adding that the BWSSB has started releasing treated water into 23 lakes. "We will add 40 more lakes. By doing this, we also plan to promote transparency in the functioning of STPs," he added.

There is, however, a belief among experts that too much thrust is given to STPs, while coverage of the sanitary network across all streets and establishments should have been the priority.

MN Thippeswamy, a retired BWSSB engineer, said Bengaluru is among the few cities to have a large number of STPs, but the end result has not been promising. "Before Cauvery Stage 5 was commissioned, BWSSB was supplying 1,440 MLD of water. Considering about 500 MLD of groundwater usage and accounting for 80% of total water use as sewage, Bengaluru had plants capable of treating up to 80% of sewage, but no lake was free from sewage at that time," he said. This, he added, shows that the city does not have a complete network of conveyance systems covering the source of sewage to the plant.

As a temporary measure, the authorities have initiated projects such as sewage diversion channels and bioremediation of lakes, while the critical requirement of detecting the source of sewage discharge and bringing it under the sanitary network remains ignored.

V Ramprasad, convener of Friends of Lake, a collective of citizen volunteers, said no government agency, neither the BWSSB nor the Greater Bengaluru Authority, has set a benchmark for all lakes and strived to achieve that goal. "What's more concerning is that the BWSSB, which is the primary polluter of lakes in Bengaluru, is part of the Board of KSPCB, which is a regulator," he said.

Property tax auctions trigger confusion amid record errors

BENGALURU, DHNS

An auction drive by the Bengaluru West and North City Corporations to recover property tax arrears through auctions was met with confusion on Saturday, as record errors and outdated databases triggered frustration among residents.

The auctions, conducted under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, aimed to recover a portion of the Rs 437 crore owed by 7,000 properties citywide at the Malleswaram Zone-2 and Yelahanka offices.

Residents reported that the corporation's database failed to reflect recent property divisions, gift deeds, or ownership transfers. "Some of these numbers belong to people who are long deceased," one resident noted, highlighting that new IDs are often issued for divided properties while the old, unified records remain active and continue to accrue arrears. Elderly citizens described the ordeal as "tension upon tension", claiming they were forced to repeatedly prove they did not owe money for dues already paid.

Auction results

In the North City Corporation, 107 properties with Rs 2.49 crore in arrears were put on the block. Despite over 10 bidders participating, only one sale was finalised. A 2,087 sq ft flat in Allalasandra (arrears: Rs 1.17 lakh) was sold to Kamala for Rs 84.60 lakh.

A property in Yelahanka Old Town received a Rs 60 lakh bid, but the sale was cancelled after the bidder failed to provide the required demand draft (DD).

Joint Commissioner Sangappa clarified that the auction is a last resort following SMS alerts and attachment orders. To avoid legal complications, officials granted reprieves to owners making partial payments. High bidders must deposit 10% or Rs 5 lakh within two hours and clear the balance within 35 days.

Property owners given enough chances: DKS

The city corporations have started auctioning properties with high property tax dues, leaving citizens worried. However, Shivakumar said the corporations would not go back on their decisions, as property owners were given enough chances to pay up.

"Our government introduced the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, which benefitted close to 2.6 lakh property owners. They could have paid then when we waived off the interest and penalty. Even after such opportunities, if they have not paid up, we cannot help much," Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar said.

BMTC offers compassionate appointments to 82 beneficiaries

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) presented compassionate appointment orders to 82 beneficiaries on Saturday.

The compassionate appointment scheme has been facilitated by BMTC to ensure financial and social security for the families of deceased employees, said Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who presented the appointment orders. Of the 82 beneficiaries, 40 were junior assistants and 42 were security personnel.

So far, since 2023, BMTC has facilitated 416 compassionate appointments. During this period, the corporation has also added 2,500 conductors to strengthen operational efficiency.

Additionally, the minister presented accident and group insurance compensation cheques to the dependents of 17 deceased employees. A total of Rs 13.50 crore was disbursed under the insurance scheme, which included three employees deceased due to accidents, five employees deceased due to natural or other causes, and seven beneficiaries under the revised scheme.

The corporation has strengthened financial safeguards through its revised group insurance scheme. Under the updated framework, effective February 19, 2024, employees contribute Rs 350 per month while BMTC contributes Rs 150, taking the total monthly premium to Rs 500 per member. The scheme provides Rs 50 lakh compensation in the event of accidental death and Rs 10 lakh for death due to natural or other causes. From October 1, 2025, compensation for death due to accident or other causes has been enhanced to Rs 12 lakh.

Student commits suicide after argument at home

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 22-year-old student allegedly died by suicide at his residence in RMV Second Stage, Sanjaynagar, on Friday night following a quarrel with his mother.

The deceased has been identified as Hemanth C, son of H C Chandru, Personal Secretary to former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Hemanth was pursuing B.Com at a private college in Malleshwaram.

The incident occurred late on Friday night. Hemanth allegedly hanged himself after locking the door of his room from inside. The incident came to light when his mother called him for dinner and received no response. Suspecting something amiss, family members broke open the door and found him hanging.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that he had an argument with his mother in the evening after she gifted jewellery to his sister, which reportedly led to a heated exchange. He is said to have expressed that he felt ignored at home and complained about not being given things he had demanded," police said.

Police said Hemanth had called his friends around 8.30 pm and later switched off his mobile phone. No suicide note was found.

All road works to be completed before monsoon, says DyCM Shivakumar

Rs 2,671 crore released; majority of projects already tendered

BENGALURU, DHNS

All ongoing road works in Bengaluru will be completed before the monsoon, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Saturday. Over the last three months, the government has released close to Rs 2,671 crore to take up road works, and 80% of the works have been tendered out, he said.

"Most of the work has started. I have instructed the officials to ensure that all of them are completed by the end of April so that we are ready before the monsoon," he said.

Till now, the government has released close to Rs 5,065 crore to take up blacktopping and whitetopping works.

"Just last year, we had released close to Rs 694 crore for 389 km of blacktopping works and Rs 1,700 crore for whitetopping," Shivakumar noted.

He also directed officials to post daily developments along with videos to ensure accountability.

"I have asked the officials not to wait for any MLA or minister to inaugurate the roads or perform any pooja. They will finish the works and open them up for the public immediately," he said.

Reviewing the progress of the B-to-A khata conversion scheme, Shivakumar said the corporations had received close to 7,000 applications so far.

"Our revenue inspectors have to personally visit every property and inspect them. Hence, it is taking time to process these applications," he said.

The corporations will also soon start purchasing smaller sweeping machines to improve cleanliness. These handheld machines will help pourakarmikas clean the corners of roads better.

The corporations will also soon start distributing pushcarts to close to 30,000 street vendors who have applied under the corporation's welfare schemes.

"We have already started issuing them ID cards. We want them to use only pushcarts for vending and, this way, we can prevent encroachment on footpaths and roads," Shivakumar said.

'No pending bills for contractors'

Addressing a question about pending dues to contractors, Shivakumar said none of the contractors working with the city corporation have pending bills.

"If there are any pending bills, they have been held back due to technical reasons. All the other pending bills have been cleared. Only about 10% of the bills may be pending," he said.

e-khata distribution

Close to ten lakh properties in the city have now received e-khata, and the government will soon hold an event to officially distribute the khatas, he announced.

"All of them have downloaded the e-khata, but we want to officially distribute it to them. This is our government's 'bhu guarantee'. Hence, we will distribute it to all ten lakh property owners at once at an event on the third Saturday of April," he said.

Appeal for land to dispose of garbage

The garbage crisis the city witnessed last week has once again brought the spotlight on garbage disposal. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar appealed to landowners around Bengaluru to come forward and offer land for waste disposal.

"Anyone with about 100 acres of land within 40 km of Bengaluru can come forward to provide us land. It is better if it is a little secluded. Our government will immediately acquire the land according to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013," he said.

The government is trying to identify four land parcels to dump garbage around Bengaluru and has been able to secure only two so far.

Bengaluru Business Corridor

The BDA will soon float tenders for the first phase of the Bengaluru Business Corridor, earlier known as the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR). Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said close to 50% of the farmers had agreed to part with their land, and tenders for other phases will also be called at the earliest.

"Some of them have agreed to take TDR, some have opted for cash compensation, and a few others want developed sites in exchange. Close to 50% of them have already opted for one of these. The others will also come through soon," he said.

TDR exchange

To promote the use of Transferable Development Rights (TDR), the government will soon start an exchange to trade TDR, Shivakumar announced.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Book release: 'Legal personalities life and lessons'; authored by Anikethan Suvvi; H N Nagamohan Das, Anil Joseph Pinto to participate; Organised by Ankura; Multimedia hall, National College, Basavanagudi; 10.30 am

Felicitation: Distribution of state-level best teacher awards in honour of Anitha Kaul; L K Atheek, Shilp Nag and others to take part; BMS Engineering College, Basavanagudi; 11 am

Film screening: Part of Girish Kasaravalli film festival; movie 'thayi Saheba' to be screened; Jayamala and Manu Chakravarthy to participate; Organised by Stage Bengaluru; K V Subbanna Aptha Rangamandira, Kumaraswamy layout; 5 pm

Concert: Carnatic classical music vocal by T V Ramaprasad; T K V Ramanujacharyalu, B C Manjunath and Vyasa Vittala to participate; Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, K R Road; 5.30 pm

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Mainly Clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.8°C
Minimum	19.7°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	52%
Sunset (Feb 22)	6:27 pm
Sunrise (Feb 23)	6:40 am
Moonrise	9:09 am
Moonset	9:55 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Visitors wait for their turn to look at objects through a telescope during the open day as part of national science day at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Crowds throng open day at Indian Institute of Astrophysics

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics held an open day on Saturday with more than 800 people from across states attending the event.

The students had set up over 50 demonstrations, including experiments on principles of optics, waves, multi wavelength light, modern telescopes and astronomy concepts.

Popular attractions included the kids section with a number of science activities, a to-scale solar system, traditional Indian astronomical instruments, a display on women astronomers, helium balloon demo, model of exoplanet detection, sunspots and solar spectra, polymeric jet analogue to solar spicules and astronomy painting. There were also artefacts from the IIA archives, dating back to the 1700s.

There was a public talk on solar system in Kannada by Pavan Gramapurohit, Kannada science play and talk on merging stars in English by Annapurni Subramaniam. Periodic tours of all exhibits, with explanations in Kannada, were also held.

More than 150 faculty members and students of IIA participated to demonstrate experiments and answer questions from the visitors. Many stalls were set up at the adjoining Survey of India campus, along with exhibits from them as well.

Library supervisors from Shivanahalli, Mantapa, and Doddajala arivu kendras under the gram panchayats were specially invited to display astronomy activities they had implemented in rural libraries.

Institutions like Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium and Bangalore Astronomical Society as well as astronomy entrepreneurs were invited to set up stalls.

A special writing corner for visitors to send astronomy themed postcards was enabled by India Post, which had also set up a post box inside the venue.

One more held for defaming officer on social media

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cyber Crime Police of Bengaluru on Saturday arrested one more suspect on the charge of creating and circulating fake documents and morphed audio clips on social media with an intention to defame D B Natesh, a senior KAS officer and former MUDA commissioner.

RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna, a resident of Mysuru, was arrested in the same case on Friday following a complaint lodged Natesh. The accused has been identified as Vinod N of Mysuru.

A senior police officer said that during the probe, police found that the act was triggered by enmity arising out of a dispute between Vinod and the complainant Natesh. Vinod, allegedly nursing a grudge against Natesh, had shared misleading and unverified information with Snehamayi Krishna with the intention of harming the officer's reputation. Without verifying the authenticity of the information received, Snehamayi Krishna circulated the content on social media platforms with an intention to defame the complainant.

Based on evidence gathered during the inquiry, Vinod was taken into custody for further interrogation.

Farmer dies in fire mishap

MANDYA, DHNS: A 72-year-old farmer died when he was trying to prevent a forest fire from spreading to his agricultural land on the forest fringe at Ragimuddanahalli of Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district on Friday.

Madegowda is the deceased. His body was handed over to his relatives after an autopsy at Pandavapura subdivision hospital.

He is survived by two daughters and a son.

Bidadi's waste-to-energy plant gets KPSCB approval

Finds compliance with norms to monitor particulate matter

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Months after getting a show-cause notice for flouting the environment laws, the Waste-to-Energy (WtE) in Bidadi has been given a clearance by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

The 600-MT per day plant with a capacity to generate 11.5 MW of power was issued show-cause notice in June 2025 after the KSPCB found that the plant had not obtained authorisation as per the Solid Waste Management Rules.

The plant began operations in December 2024 and was shutdown for three months following an accident that killed five persons in January 2025. The incident had attracted the attention of activists who demanded immediate halt to the operations of the plant.

The waste-to-energy plant in Bidadi began operations in December 2024 and was shut down for three months following an accident that killed five persons in January 2025. DH FILE PHOTO

The matter was taken up by the Central Pollution Control Board which was directed to monitor the operations of the WtE plants across the country. The Board had issued directions Karnataka and eight other states, including Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

The KSPCB reported that online continuous emission monitoring system has been installed in the Bidadi plant to monitor particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen chloride and others.

Sources in the KSPCB said the plant has been allowed to operate after a compliance letter was sent. To a question, the source said, "The WtE plants are still in the nascent stage. Once the Centre issues guidelines, the emission monitoring can be enhanced to include heavy metals and other pollutants."

Meanwhile, the CPCB said that guidelines on incineration-based WtE plants were being finalised. The Board said that a draft guideline issued last August elicited response from only six states.

It said reminders were sent to stakeholders in the first week of January and February, seeking their comments. "The comments from most of the stakeholders are awaited, and the same are important for harmonisation of the guidelines with the overall statutory and policy framework," it said, requesting three more months for the finalisation of the guidelines.

64-year-old man held for molesting minors in school

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Anekal Police have arrested a 64-year-old man on charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for allegedly molesting minor girls in a government school.

The accused has been identified as Krishnamurthy, alias Kitty, a resident of Weavers' Colony on Bannerghatta Road; he was selling pens for his livelihood.

A senior police officer said that a school teacher filed a case on Friday after minors revealed Krishnamurthy's misbehaviour to their parents. The school authorities were then alerted, and the teacher noticed the suspicious behaviour of the suspect before approaching the police. Krishnamurthy had been coming to the school premises for the past few months to sell pens and allegedly targeted minor girls on multiple occasions, touching them inappropriately.

The accused has been booked under relevant sections of the POCSO Act and handed over to judicial custody after a thorough interrogation, a senior police officer said.

Speaking to *DH*, the complainant said: "A week ago, he came to the school to distribute calendars, and I warned him not to roam around inside the school premises. Later, a group of students complained about his misbehaviour, and then I filed a case with the Anekal police. There are no CCTV cameras around the area, and we have come to know that Krishnamurthy molested more than eight girls, and he used to lure them with chocolates during the incidents. So far, four girls have narrated the incidents and we have alerted all the staff to keep an eye out to prevent such incidents on the school premises."

REVIVING LAKE

Earthmovers were pressed into service for desilting Nagawara lake in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR P S

HC tells CS to set up panel to protect Sarakki lake

Panel to ensure authorities initiate necessary action

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has directed the chief secretary to constitute a committee within three weeks comprising a representative of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the deputy commissioner, Bengaluru Urban, the Tank Development Authority and other stakeholders to ensure clearing the encroachment and further protection and management of Sarakki lake at JP Nagar.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha, passed this order while disposing of the PIL filed by Sarakki Lake Improvement Trust.

"The Committee shall oversee and ensure the relevant statutory authorities initiate necessary action as per the relevant statute to notify the person/s and/or entities, who have put up construction/s in the buffer zone to take further action in accordance with law for the purposes of clearing/removing the said encroachments as also other measures to preserve and protect the Lake in question; The Committee through its Nodal Officer shall send a report to this Court within three months as to the action taken for clearances of the unauthorized constructions as well as other actions/measures taken by it," the bench said.

Sarakki Lake is located in Puttenahalli between the 6th and 7th phases of JP Nagar, spread over 82.19 acres with a catchment area of 5.65 sqkm.

The petitioners stated that pursuant to the orders of the high court, in an earlier PIL, certain encroachments were cleared. However, the fencing of the lake boundary was incomplete, and in the interregnum, the construction of a residential apartment was undertaken in violation of the Master Plan – 2015.

After perusing the statements filed by the parties involved, the bench noted that the entity carrying out the construction claimed that the BBMP had granted the sanctioned plan, the civic agency, in its affidavit, stated that the sanctioned land is subject to the condition of the buffer zone of 30 metres being retained from the physical boundary of the lake.

The bench said that the authorities were required to clear encroachments in the buffer zone of the lake, fence the lake area and fence the buffer zone, which had not been complied with.

"Over the passage of time, various authorities have been named to be the custodian of the lake, and the state has constituted various authorities, like the authorities under the Tank Conservation Act, etc., to preserve and protect the Lake. Hence, it is expedient that the state appoint a committee constituting the necessary stakeholders for the purpose of taking the necessary steps in accordance with law for compliance with the orders passed in the earlier writ petition as well as in the present proceedings," the bench said.

Expansion project of Mysuru Airport to take off soon

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

The expansion and upgrading project of Mysuru Airport has gained momentum, with the completion of the land acquisition with the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) completing land acquisition.

The KSIIDC (Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation), the nodal agency, is expected to hand over the land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), once the KIADB ensures that the land is free from any encumbrance, by clearing all pending compensation.

While 240 acres is required for the expansion of the runway of the Airport, the KIADB has acquired 206.12 acres. The rest is government land.

Special Land Acquisition Officer (SLO) of KIADB N C Venkatraju said that they got 181.12 acres of land with the consent of landowners.

For the remaining 18 acres land, they have written to the head office of the KIADB, to get an approval for payment of compensation. Once this process is completed, the land will be handed over to the AAI via KSIIDC, he said.

Mysuru is expected to attract more investors and tourists with its upgradation as Greater Mysuru. DH FILE PHOTO

Re-survey

Mysuru Airport Director P V Usha Kumari said, that the KSIIDC, KIADB, CNNL, KPTCL, and NHAI, conducted a re-survey of the land in Mandakalli and Marashe villages in the presence of AAI officials from February 9 to 12.

"There are plans for underground cabling of HT and LT electric lines of the KPTCL and construction of UG box tunnels for five canals of the Irrigation department in the land needed for Airport expansion. They have planned a diversion of NH-766, with NHAI funds near Mysuru-Nanjangud Road. The primary security clearance is obtained for all the works. For expert clearance, the authorities have written to BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security)."

The existing 1,740-metre runway can accommodate ATR-72 type of aircraft (with 72-seat capacity). Now it is planned to expand it up to 2,300 metres in the first phase and up to 2,750 metres in the second phase.

With this, the Airport can handle Airbus 320, wide-bodied Boeing-737, Globemaster and similar national and international aircraft with over 180-seat capacity.

The Airports Authority of India confirmed the master plan for the Airport on October 6, 2025. Once the land is handed over, it will come up with a DPR, develop the land and take up the expansion and upgrading process.

Currently two Indigo flights are operating from Mysuru Airport to Chennai and Hyderabad, with 100% occupancy.

Usha Kumari said that there is a demand for flights to Kochi, Goa, Mumbai, Calicut, Mangaluru and Tirupati. The Civil Aviation Ministry has given clearance for Alhind Air for operation. The Ministry will give clearance for slots to different sectors, once it begins operations, likely in September."

Universities to be treated as single entities for recruitment

Move aimed at preserving spirit of internal reservation policy

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to ensure equal opportunities to all sub-castes clubbed under various groups in the internal reservation matrix, recruitment for universities will no longer be department-specific affairs. The Karnataka government has given 'in-principle' approval to a new policy wherein each university will be treated as a single entity and vacancies across departments brought under a single umbrella for the purpose of recruitment.

This was decided at the high-level meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Internal Reservation jointly chaired by Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa, and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa.

Treating departments as individual entities results in a representation gap since there are only one or two sanctioned posts for some subjects. For instance, when candidates classified under internal reservation groups A, B and C applied for positions in a single department, only those from Group A were found to secure jobs.

"By treating the entire university as a single unit, the government aims to pool all vacancies across departments. This approach will allow for a more balanced distribution of opportunities under the internal reservation policy, ensuring representation for all subgroups in the Scheduled Caste umbrella," read the statement released to the press after the meeting.

Mahadevappa said that students and youngsters from SC communities had flagged many issues with the recruitment process at universities. "Their concerns are legitimate. To prevent the spirit of the internal reservation policy from being diluted, we have decided to treat the university as a single unit," said the Social Welfare Minister, reaffirming the state government's commitment to implementing the Supreme Court's order on internal reservation. The state would soon evolve a framework for the new recruitment policy, he added.

Queried about the ongoing debate on the classification of 101 SC communities into various categories, Mahadevappa expressed concern over attempts to create divisions among the SCs. While acknowledging feedback from experts and youngsters on the issue, he however warned against 'politically motivated' efforts to foment discord between SC communities.

"As the people's representatives, it is our duty to listen and analyse with a balanced mind to ensure justice. We are committed to a system that ensures equitable distribution of justice so no one is left behind," Mahadevappa said.

Landmark report shows global economy driving biodiversity loss

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

A landmark new report on the impact of business on biodiversity has shown that the global economy has grown at the cost of immense loss of biodiversity, which is now threatening the stability of the economy, finances and human wellbeing.

Prepared by 79 leading experts from 35 countries, "The Impact and Dependence of Business on Biodiversity and Nature's Contributions to People" warns that the current conditions in which businesses operate are not compatible with the efforts to achieve a just and sustainable future.

The report approved by 150 member countries noted that businesses depend on biodiversity but continues to drive declines in biodiversity. Therefore, a shift was necessary to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. But, many often lack information to address the impacts as well as risks and opportunities. It was released at the 12th plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPES). The experts pointed to a survey of financial institutions representing 30% of global market capitalisation that lack of reliable data, reliable models and access to scenarios stand as three major barriers to take up nature-related risk assessment and management.

Incentivising loss

The current conditions perpetuate business-as-usual as large subsidies are provided to business activities that drive biodiversity loss. It pointed to the 2023 study showing $7.3 lakh crore flowed to projects that have direct negative impact on nature while only 3% of that money ($22,000 crore) was given to activities contributing to conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

Professor Stephen Polasky (USA), Co-chair of the Assessment, said the loss of biodiversity was the most serious threat to business. "Yet the twisted reality is that it often seems more profitable to businesses to degrade biodiversity than to protect it. Business as usual may once have seemed profitable in the short term, but impacts across multiple businesses can have cumulative effects, aggregating to global impacts, which can cross ecological tipping points," he said, calling for policy and cultural shifts.

The report proposed three overarching characteristics that can be used to assess which methods are most appropriate for any business of any size or sector: coverage (geographic and extent of impacts and dependencies); accuracy in measuring impacts and responsiveness (the ability of method to detect changes that can be attributed to the actions and activities of the business).

"We know that biodiversity loss is risk to business. Our experts now looked at the methods and approaches available to understand what that means in an individual business context. How you can measure your impacts and dependencies and how you can measure your risks. It's the first time it has happened at this level. Importantly, it's the first time that 150 countries have agreed to it," he said.

FKCCI objects to Bescom's annual performance review

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has started hearing objections against the Annual Performance Review (APR) filed by Bescom.

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has raised concerns against the APR filed by Bescom.

In the APR and the truing-up petition, Bescom has pointed out the deficit in revenue and sought some relief from the KERC, indirectly seeking an increase in tariff.

However, referring to the petition, FKCCI pointed out that Bescom had not filed the audited accounts and had failed to conduct a comprehensive cost-of-service study, which is essential to determine fair and rational tariffs.

"FKCCI expressed serious concerns regarding regulatory non-compliance, lack of transparency, and issues adversely affecting consumers, particularly the MSME sector, which forms the backbone of Karnataka's industrial ecosystem," the objections filed by the FKCCI said.

FKCCI also requested that the KERC direct Bescom to maintain the existing tariff structure until regulatory compliance is ensured.

"Frame transparent regulations governing additional surcharge, create a separate tariff category for MSMEs and implement solar hours tariff to promote affordability and renewable energy use," the FKCCI said.

However, responding to the FKCCI, Bescom, in an affidavit before the KERC, has said that the APR was submitted based on the statutory audited accounts, which have been finalised in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013 and applicable accounting standards.

It also refuted claims that the cost-of-services was not studied scientifically.

"The voltage-wise cost of supply has been worked out by Bescom in the prescribed D-23 format, strictly in accordance with the methodology approved by the KERC during Multi-Year tariff filing," Bescom said.

Bescom, responding to the objections raised by FKCCI, said that the KERC should consider the true-up petition and APR submitted by the power utility.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Feb 22: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	33.6	19.2	00
Bidar	33.6	16.4	00
Vijayapura	33.5	17	00
Dharwad	33.6	17	00
Haveri	33.4	20.4	00
Kalaburagi	35.9	21.6	00
Raichur	33.6	20	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.1	22	00
Karwar	33	21.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34	24.3	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	31	19.7	00
Ballari	36.2	22.8	00
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	33.4	19	00
Davangere	34	16	00
Hassan	31.6	12.7	00
Mysuru	32.6	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	31.6	15	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	28.4	14.2	00
Kolkata	31.6	19.2	00
Mumbai	32.9	22.4	00
Chennai	33.5	24.8	00
Pune	33	17.5	00
Hyderabad	32.2	19.7	00
Th'puram	35.1	25.3	00

SIR: 1.7 cr voters out after final rolls of 9 states...

SIR, from Jacket Page 2

During the SIR, people were given an opportunity to register as new voters if their names were not there in the draft rolls as also one could apply for deletion of voters. Some names were deleted despite being in draft rolls as they were not mapped with 2002-2003 SIR rolls and could not provide proof.

Gujarat witnessed the highest net change of 68.12 lakh in electoral rolls as it shrunk from 5.08 crore to 4.40 crore, with a percentage change of 13.4%. At 34.35 lakh, Madhya Pradesh came second in the number of net deletions, though its proportion was comparatively less at 5.96%, as voters declined from 5.74 crore to 5.39 crore.

The number of voters in Rajasthan saw a decline of 31.36 lakh (5.74%), from 5.46 crore to 5.15 crore, while Chhattisgarh saw a decline of 24.99 lakh – a higher proportion of 11.77% compared to other bigger states – from 2.12 crore to 1.87 crore voters.

Kerala had the lowest proportion of decline in voters at 3.22% or 8.97 lakh – from 2.78 crore to 2.69 crore. Goa had a 10.76% or 1.27 lakh decline in voter rolls from 11.85 lakh to 10.57 lakh.

Among the Union Territories, Lakshadweep's voter list shrunk by just 206 or 0.36% – the island now has 57,607 voters as against 57,813 voters earlier.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands had the highest proportion of 16.87% deletions as its voters' list declined by 52,364, from 3.10 lakh to 2.58 lakh.

Puducherry has registered a decline of 7.5% or 77,367 voters – from 10.21 lakh to 9.44 lakh.

In Assam, the Election Commission conducted a Special Revision instead of SIR, owing to legal hurdles posed by an incomplete National Register of Citizens (NRC) process.

According to the final rolls published earlier this month, Assam has 2.49 crore voters as against 2.52 crore voters in a draft list prepared after the SR. Assam had 2.45 crore voters for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

BJP MLA caught taking Rs 5L bribe

BJP MLA, from Jacket Page 2

BJP workers gathered near the hospital during the Lokayukta raid, raised slogans against the Congress leaders, and alleged that the raid was a conspiracy by the Congress.

Rise and fall

First-time MLA Dr Lamani, hailing from Dindur Tanda in Mundaragi taluk, had earlier worked as a taluk health officer at Shirahatti, and later started his own hospital at Laxmeshwar. He had a Lokayukta complaint against him when he was working with the taluk hospital and his resignation was not accepted even when he was trying to become a candidate in the Assembly elections, sources said. Social service during Covid-19 pandemic was the springboard for politics for Dr Lamani, and he won as a BJP candidate from Shirahatti reserved constituency in 2023, by a margin of 28,520 votes.

Contractor Vijay Pujar on February 18 had complained that Dr Lamani and his PAs had demanded Rs 11 lakh (12% commission) for two works of constructing retaining walls for a stream at Sankadal village in Laxmeshwar taluk for which the work order was awarded in July. In 2023, the then Channagiri BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa was arrested by the Lokayukta after he was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act following his son's arrest for allegedly taking a Rs 40 lakh bribe from a contractor. Later, the high court had quashed the proceedings against him.

In 2009, the then KGF MLA Y Sampangi was caught by the Lokayukta police while allegedly accepting bribe from a businessman. Later, a special Lokayukta court had sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment. He was later granted a bail by the high court.

Defiant Trump raises global tariffs to 15%

Trump tariffs, from Jacket Page 2

Before April 2, 2025, the United States applied only standard Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs on Indian goods. From April 2 to August 6, 2025, it imposed an additional 10% reciprocal tariff. This was raised to 25% from August 7 to August 26, 2025. Between August 27, 2025, and February 6, 2026, total additional duties rose to 50%, consisting of a 25% country-specific reciprocal tariff plus a 25% penalty linked to India's purchases of Russian oil, over and above MFN rates.

From February 7 to February 24, 2026, the Russia-oil penalty was removed, reducing the additional duty to 25%. The February 6 joint statement proposed lowering this reciprocal tariff to 18%, but the change has not yet been implemented.

Beginning February 24, 2026, a temporary across-the-board 10% tariff will apply for 150 days in addition to MFN duties, replacing the earlier reciprocal tariff structure.

Trump has claimed that there is no change in deal with India despite the Supreme Court's ruling.

"Since the case has been filed by the firms impacted, and not by individual sovereigns/jurisdictions, the order's impact can have an overarching effect over the various trade treaties the US has entered with countries, bringing the effective tax rate to 10%+MFN rate now," SBI Research said in a note.

CNC demands inclusion of Kodava language in 8th Schedule

MADIKERI, DHNS: Marking International Mother Language Day, leaders of the Codava National Council (CNC) staged a protest in front of the deputy commissioner's office here on Saturday, demanding that Kodava language be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

CNC president N U Nachappa made several demands, including the inclusion of Kodava Thakk in the Eighth Schedule as recommended in the report of the commission headed by noted linguist Pandit Dr Sitakant Mahapatra. He said that inclusion of Kodava language in the Eighth Schedule will provide legal, cultural, and educational benefits to the Kodava community.

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Venues In Bangalore

Infantry Road: Safina Plaza, No.84/85 - 560 001
Jayanagar: Hema Chandra Kalyan Mahal, 2nd Block, (Near Ashoka Pillar) - 11
Banshankari: Sri Hari Kalyana Mantap, 30th Main, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Near K.I.M.S. Hospital - 560085
Rajarajeshwari Nagar: Vasavi Mahal Kalyana Mantapa (Basement), Next to Reliance Digital, Ideal Homes I Phase - 560098
Vijay Nagar: Five O Gallery, 17th Cross, M.C. Road, Near Vijay Nagar Bus Stop - 560040
Rajajinagar: Raja Rajeshwari Kalyana Mantapa, (1st Floor), 2nd Block, Next To Blue Hyunday Showroom, Dr. Rajkumar Road - 560010
Koramangala: Apoorva International, #35A, Raheja Arcade, Opp Star Box - 560095
Basavanagudi: Amolak Apparels, 7/3, 1st Floor, Opp. Karnataka Bank - 560004

Org. by: Surya Agency Pvt. Ltd.

PROVISION OF DIGITAL 25 W-VHF SETS

E-tender Notice No. S&T/APDJ/59 Dated: 19-02-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. AP-ST-59-2025-26. Name of work:** Provision of Digital 25 W-VHF sets with voice recording at all stations in Alipurduar Jn. Division. **Tender Value:** ₹2,80,59,328.94/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹2,90,300/- **E-tender will be closed** at **15:00** hrs. of **18-03-2026 & opening at 18-03-2026** after closing E-Tender. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (S&T)/Alipurduar Division

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CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.:** SUR/L/T/2024/30R3. **Name of work:** Electrical general service portion of work in connection with upgradation of Wadi yard to A class freight examination yard. (Reinvitation) **Estimated cost in Rs.:** 1,17,77,433.48/- **Bid Security:** 2,08,900/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Validity of offer:** 60 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 17/03/2026 at 15.00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website. ANJ-18

Travel safely, Avoid footboard travelling

e-Procurement Cell
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SPECIAL WORKS DIVISION, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, Ranchi

CORRIGENDUM-2

e-Procurement Tender Reference No:- BCD/EE, Special Works Div, BCD, Ranchi-41/2025-26 Date:-06.02.2026, PR No-372536 Building(25-26).D, एव **PR No-373003 (Building) 25-26 (D)** Proposed Construction of Jharkhand Bhawan at Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharastra कार्य से संबंधित है, के तिथियों में अपरिहार्य कारणवश पुनः संशोधन किया जा रहा है जिसका विवरणी निम्नवत है:–

क्र0 सं0	मद	पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि	पुनः संशोधित तिथि
1	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	13.02.2026	17.02.2026	20.02.2026
2	प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि/समय	24.02.2026 at 1.00 P.M	26.02.2026 at 1.00 P.M	09.03.2026 at 1.00 P.M
3	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि/समय	16.03.2026 at 1.00 P.M	18.03.2026 at 1.00 P.M	23.03.2026 at 1.00 P.M
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय	17.03.2026 at 1.00 P.M	19.03.2026 at 1.00 P.M	24.03.2026 at 1.00 P.M

शेष सभी शर्ते यथावत रहेंगी।

Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell,
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Works Division
Building Construction Department, Ranchi

PR 373454 Building (25-26)_D

Government of Karnataka
Office of the, Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-1/2025-26/6024 **Date : 18-02-2026.**

Tender Corrigendum Notification

Sub: Tender corrigendum for the work invited for tender under 3054-(Non-Plan)-Maintenance of State Highways and Major District Roads.

Ref: This office tender notification No.PWD/EE/TS-1/5949/2025-26 dated: 16-02-2026.

The tenderers are requested to note that, due to technical reasons, the indent number of the following works, invited for tender under this office notification cited above have been changed. Other conditions remain unaltered. If any, will be notified separately.

TABLE

Sl No	Indent number notified earlier	Changed indent Number
1)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33375	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33732

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/1035/KSMCA/2025-26

HOSKOTE PLANNING AUTHORITY
Mission Hospital Road, 1st Cross, Sri. Venkatadri Layout, Hoskote - 562114, Bangalore rural District.
Phone / Fax: 080-27934470 / 27935412.
E-mail: hosakote.pa@gmail.com URL: www.hoskote.tpa.gov.in

No: HPA/e-auction/FD/02/2025-26 **Date: 21-02-2026**

NOTICE

"e-Auction notification for Investment of Surplus Funds of Hoskote Planning Authority has been published in e-Procurement Portal of GOK. For details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**"

e-Auction Notice No: **TPA/2025-26/AUCTION73**

Sd/-
Joint Director of Town & Country Planning
& Member Secretary,
Hoskote Planning Authority, Hoskote.

DIPR/CP/5816/Adverto/2025-26

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ)

ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಂ. ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಮ್‌ಸಿ/61/12/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-02-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ / ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ನಂ:-1119 ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 21-01-2026

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಸನ್ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸನ್ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ವಾರು ಅನುದಾನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ PWD ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (SC) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55538 ರೂ. 16.50ಲಕ್ಷ, 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55534 ರೂ. 18.50ಲಕ್ಷ, 3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 55552 ರೂ. 6.10ಲಕ್ಷ, 4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55465 ರೂ. 5.75ಲಕ್ಷ, 5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53181 ರೂ. 11.09ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ (ST) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55562 ರೂ. 30.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55548 ರೂ. 4.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-42588 ರೂ. 80.00ಲಕ್ಷ

(CAT-1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55546 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ

(CAT-2A) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55521 ರೂ. 2.96ಲಕ್ಷ, 11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55547 ರೂ. 12.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55394 ರೂ. 20.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53182 ರೂ. 4.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-54695 ರೂ. 5.10ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55404 ರೂ. 7.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55256 ರೂ. 12.58ಲಕ್ಷ, 17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55255 ರೂ. 4.45ಲಕ್ಷ, 18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-54368 ರೂ. 21.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-54619 ರೂ. 16.45ಲಕ್ಷ, 20) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55257 ರೂ. 22.82ಲಕ್ಷ, 21) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55258 ರೂ. 12.42ಲಕ್ಷ, 22) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55571 ರೂ. 44.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 23) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55557 ರೂ. 28.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 24) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55559 ರೂ. 19.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 25) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55554 ರೂ. 30.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 26) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55403 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ, 27) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-55496 ರೂ. 17.10ಲಕ್ಷ, 28) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- SE7354 ರೂ. 14.75ಲಕ್ಷ

<u>ಮರು ಕರೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ</u>

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (SC) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 29) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52872 ರೂ. 15.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 30) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52387 ರೂ. 3.10ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 31) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53504 ರೂ. 7.70ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 32) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53963 ರೂ. 6.90ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 33) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-54176 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 34) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-54259 ರೂ. 12.31ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ (ST) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 35) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52870 ರೂ. 4.13ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 36) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52391 ರೂ. 13.25ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 37) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52868 ರೂ. 8.60ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 38) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-54260 ರೂ. 7.80ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

(CAT-1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 39) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53042 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ),

(CAT-2A) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 40) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53039 ರೂ. 24.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 41) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53453 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 42) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52389 ರೂ. 6.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 43) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52880 ರೂ. 18.20ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 44) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53982 ರೂ. 7.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 45) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53984 ರೂ. 2.35ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 46) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53040 ರೂ. 21.60ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 47) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53041 ರೂ. 5.06ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 48) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-53263 ರೂ. 16.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 49) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-51425 ರೂ. 4.90ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 50) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-51128 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 51) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52224 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 52) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52220 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 53) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-51582 ರೂ. 16.47ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 54) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-48667 ರೂ. 12.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 55) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-52281 ರೂ. 4.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 56) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-44165 ರೂ. 5.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ), 57) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-39194 ರೂ. 6.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ), 58) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-43491 ರೂ. 5.40ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ), 59) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-49588 ರೂ. 6.85ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ), 60) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-48813 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ), 61) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-44540 ರೂ. 6.45ಲಕ್ಷ (7ನೇ ಕರೆ), 62) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-44538 ರೂ. 6.45ಲಕ್ಷ (7ನೇ ಕರೆ), 63) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-48033 ರೂ. 32.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 64) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-42611 ರೂ. 55.00ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ), 65) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-50157 ರೂ. 7.60ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 66) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-44230 ರೂ. 8.95ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ), 67) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-46141 ರೂ. 5.00ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ), 68) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-37838 ರೂ. 4.00ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ), 69) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-44536 ರೂ. 6.45ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ), 70) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-46020 ರೂ. 18.00ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ), 71) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-45540 ರೂ. 17.60ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ), 72) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-45514 ರೂ. 8.20ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ), 73) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-44209 ರೂ. 3.75ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ), 74) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ-28054 ರೂ. 49.10ಲಕ್ಷ (5ನೇ ಕರೆ)

ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ) ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಚೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836:2213834ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : <u>kppp.karnataka.gov.in</u> ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-02-2026 ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 08, 10 ರಿಂದ 12 27, 28 39 ರಿಂದ 41 65 ರಿಂದ 74ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-03-2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 08, 10 ರಿಂದ 12 27, 28 39 ರಿಂದ 41 65 ರಿಂದ 74ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05-03-2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 08ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-03-2026 ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಂತರದ ಅನುಕೂಲಕರ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 07, 09 13 ರಿಂದ 26, 29 ರಿಂದ 38 42 ರಿಂದ 64ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10-03-2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 07, 09 13 ರಿಂದ 26, 29 ರಿಂದ 38 42 ರಿಂದ 64ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-03-2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 64ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-03-2026 ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಂತರದ ಅನುಕೂಲಕರ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1267/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2025-26

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka
4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928

No. RGUHSB/PROC/GEN/11/2026(134775) **Date: 21/02/2026**

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Procurement of Gold Medals for the 28th Convocation of RGUHS. More Details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2025-26/IND0024/Call-2

1	Tender document available for downloaded	21/02/2026, 13:53 Hrs.
2	Last date for Receipt of Tender	02/03/2026, 17:30 Hrs.
3	Last date for Sample submission	03/03/2026, 11:29 Hrs.
4	Opening of Technical Bid	04/03/2026, 11:30 Hrs.
5	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/5802/AKAR/2025-26

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests,
GBA, Annex-03 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru.

No. DCF/PR-699/2025-26 Date: 21-02-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Dy.Chief Engineer/CN/HQ/BNC, South Western Railway, Bengaluru has submitted an application and requested the undersigned for **removal of 169 trees standing inside the premises of the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) Railway Station for Development of Sick Line, IOH/SSI Infrastructure Facility for NMG/LHB/ICF Type Rolling Stock Maintenance at Sir M.Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT).**

Total No. of trees standing in the project : **169 Nos.**

Description of trees, species, location, area, etc. uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all **(www.bbmp.gov.in).**

Public can send their comments either by Email/Post/hand to;

(a) The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02. Email: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com

(b) The Dy. CE/CN/HQ/BNC, South Western Railway, Bangalore. Email: dycecnonebnc@gmail.com Comments communicated directly to Dy.CE/CN/HQ/BNC should also be marked a copy to the Tree Officer/DCF, GBA.

<u>Deadline for filing objections:</u> Ten (10 days) from the date of publication of this notification in Newspaper. (Objections/comments/suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project).

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8(3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests,
GBA, Bengaluru

BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, 16th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-01

No.BCCC/EE/ELE/TEND/02/2025-26 **Date: 21.02.2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Single cover/Short term) (Through KPPP Portal only)

Executive Engineer (Ele), BCCC, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation/KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations on behalf of the commissioner, BCCC for Electrical work as detailed in the table. The bidders may submit their bids for works given in the table below through KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** The bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause-3 of the ITT to qualify for award of the contract. **2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal from **24/02/2026 by 16.30 hrs. 3)** Bids must be submitted online through the KPPP portal on or before **05/03/2026 by 16:00 hrs. 4)** Date of opening of tenders **: 06/03/2026 at 16:00 Hrs.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Amount Put to Tender in lakhs/EMD amount in Rs./Category
	Others
1	Maintenance of electrical installations in Public Utility Building in ward 167 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.33.04 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 66,100/-**. Period For Completion : **365 days.**
2	Maintenance of electrical installations in BBMP Head office and Modern Council building in ward no 118 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.41.52 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 83,100/-**. Period For Completion : **365 days.**
3	Annual Electrical Maintenance of all BBMP buildings coming under Chickpet Constituency in ward nos 160,161,162,163,164 & 165 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.6.78 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 17,000/-**. Period For Completion : **365 days.**
4	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Gandhinagar Constituency in ward nos 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127 & 128 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.16.95 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 42,500/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days.**
5	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under CV Raman Nagar Constituency in ward nos 108, 109, 110, 111,112, 113, 114, 115 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.12.71 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 32,000/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days.**
6	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Shanthinagar Constituency in ward nos 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172 under Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.12.71 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 32,000/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days.**
7	Annual maintenance to Wilson Garden Electrical Crematorium in ward no 164 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.8.47 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 21,500/-**. Period For Completion : **183 days.**
8	Shifting of DG set and Control panel to newly constructed control room in Kallahalli Electrical Crematorium in ward no 108 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.3.38 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 8,500/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days**
	CAT-I
1	Annual Maintenance of Siddaiah Road Refferal hospital Dharmaraya Swamy temple ward no.160 Under BCCC, POW 2025-in 26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.4.23 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 5,500/-**. Period For Completion : **365 days.**
	CAT-II(A)
1	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Chamarajapet Constituency in ward nos 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158 & 159 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.18.64 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 23,500/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days.**
2	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Shivajinagar Constituency in ward nos 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121 under Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.6.78 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 8,500/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days.**
	Reserved to SC
1	Annual Electrical Maintenance of Kalasipalya Vegetable market in Dharmaraya Swamy temple ward no.160 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.3.39 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 4,500/-**. Period For Completion : **365 days.**
2	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Chickpet Constituency in ward nos 160,161,162, 163,164 & 165 under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.15.24 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 19,100/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days.**
3	Annual maintenance to Mysore road Electrical Crematorium in ward no 155 Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.8.48 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 11,000/-**. Period For Completion : **243 days.**
	Reserved to ST
1	Repairs to Panel boards, cable and lighting at BBMP head office building Under BCCC, POW 2025-26. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.10.17 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs. 13,000/-**. Period For Completion : **120 days.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Ele), BCCC

Varsities abroad ok with visiting profs, why aren't you?: CM to state varsities

Don't impose views on students, Siddu tells faculty

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday questioned the vice chancellors (VCs) of state-run universities as to why they don't consider guest faculties as part of their human resource.

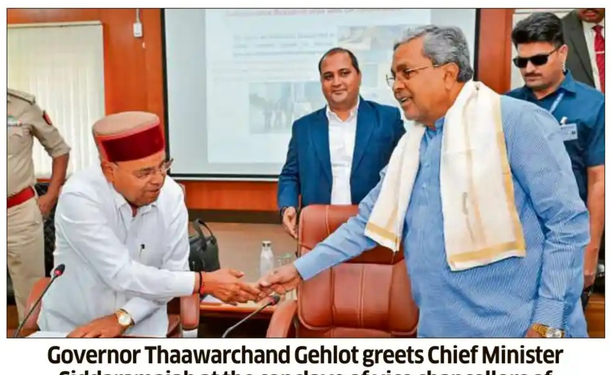
He was responding to repeated requests by VCs to address staff shortage, at the VCs' conclave in Bengaluru.

Giving examples of the best foreign universities doing without permanent staff, Siddaramaiah said, "We have given guest faculties. Why don't you consider them as part of your workforce? Did you know that the world's best universities make do visiting professors and making the academic environment the best. Why is it not possible here?"

The CM said irregular recruitments over the past two decades had led to a severe shortage of teachers in higher education sector.

"The government is aware that 60–70% of teaching positions are vacant in major universities. Government is not blocking recruitment. In last year's budget, we made provisions for filling up 2,000 posts in degree and technical degree colleges. This year, we will provide for recruitment in universities," he said.

Siddaramaiah said, "With AI emerging worldwide, staff vacancies should be filled in only the required courses. There are courses which have no takers or have no demand".



Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot greets Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the conclave of vice chancellors of state universities in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The CM pointed out that universities were becoming caste enclaves and advised faculties not to impose their political, ideological views on students and said scientific and rational thinking must be developed.

In his address, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar insisted universities should generate own funds and not depend on the government for money. He advised the VCs to make use of funds available under corporate social responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar asked universities to develop financial discipline, transparency and responsibility.

"The recruitment process should be transparent and if any irregularities are reported, action will be initiated," he warned the VCs.

The conclave discussed 18 key issues, including financial discipline, pension issues, uniformity in convocations, shortages of teaching and non-teaching s

Guv for VC-registrar camaraderie

Governor and chancellor Thaawar Chand Gehlot stressed the importance of cordial relations between the VC and the registrar in the universities.

Addressing the VCs' conclave, the governor - also chancellor of universities - cited a few instances in which differences between the VC and the registrar affected administration.

"The differences are leading to unnecessary inquiries," Gehlot said.

He highlighted the shortage of faculty and staff at universities and urged the CM to consider providing financial assistance and funds for filling up staff vacancies at universities in the budget. The governor cited the situation in special universities like those pertaining to Janapada (folk), Sanskrit and music.

Mysuru as edu-innovation hub

Mysuru will become a 'global education and innovation hub' and a 'national knowledge district' by 2030, the CM said. He said an ed-tech and life sciences research park would come up there on 100 acres attracting an investment of Rs 15,000 crore and create over 50,000 skilled jobs.

Crowd control bill: HC tells govt to respond to amicus curiae's view

Direction on PIL over stampede in Chinnaswamy stadium

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has directed the state government to respond to the suggestion by the amicus curiae that a few measures from January 13, 2026, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) could be incorporated into the proposed Karnataka Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Places of Gathering) Bill.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha, passed this direction in the suo motu public interest litigation (PIL) registered in connection with the stampede at M Chinnaswamy stadium on June 4, 2025, in which 11 people lost their lives.

On June 5, 2025, the division bench had taken cognisance of the stampede incident and had directed the state government to submit a report and asked the state government to furnish a response on several issues, including as to who decided to hold the victory celebrations and in what manner.

During the hearing, senior counsel S Susheela, amicus curiae in the PIL, submitted that the measures included in the draft SOP, placed before the court, are better than the provisions included in the Bill.

The bench was informed that the bill has been referred to the House panel. Insofar as the SOP, the amicus curiae told the court that it included most of the suggestions made by her and other parties to the petition.

The amicus curiae also informed the court that the Royal Challengers Bengaluru has proposed to conduct 6-7 matches in the upcoming IPL tournaments. It was submitted that the crowd management could be difficult if the matches are held before the measures proposed in the SOP are put in place.

Meanwhile, the government sought time for the Advocate General to place his response on behalf of the state government.

The bench adjourned the hearing to February 23 for the response of the Advocate General.

Health dept recruits doctors, technicians to tackle shortage

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health Department has taken steps for recruitment of doctors, technicians and other essential staff to address shortage, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said.

He was speaking at the Abhaya Hasta programme here on Saturday.

At the event, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah handed over appointment letters to over 1,000 candidates chosen for the department. Among them, 970 are for permanent paramedical posts - 320 in Kalyana Karnataka and 650 in other parts. Additionally, 77 candidates selected for Drug Inspector's post also received appointment letters.

The department has also taken in 223 D-Pharma students as apprentices and plans to recruit 700 more. They will receive professional training on a monthly stipend of Rs 8,000. About 220 specialist doctors are expected to be appointed in a month or 2, to ensure super-specialty treatment in government hospitals, the minister said.

Around 1,400 MBBS doctors are serving under compulsory rural service, and the department is working to ensure that postgraduate medical students also complete mandatory service, he said.

Speaking at the event, the CM said, "All these recruitments are being conducted through counselling, which has helped curb corruption. As many as 5,700 transfers, including those of doctors, have been carried out through counselling."

AND THE FIGHT BEGINS

Rams lock horns in a fight organised as part of a national-level tournament on the occasion of Durgambika fair in Davangere on Saturday. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

Safari to resume today, comes with several conditions

MYSURU, DHNS: The Forest department on Saturday issued an order after formal state government approval to resume wildlife safari in Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger reserves.

The decision was approved in principle by the state government on Wednesday. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Kumar Pushkar has issued the order.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve Conservator of Forest S Prabhakaran informed that safari will resume from Sunday. Officials of NTR informed that they will resume safari in Forest department's vehicles from Monday, but safaris of Jungle Lodges and Resorts will resume from Sunday.

The safaris are permitted with various conditions, such as - mainly buses should be used for safaris; use only 50% of safari vehicles and rest for activities to mitigate human animal conflicts, prevent forest fire; use one-third of revenue of safari to NTR and BTR forest conservation foundations for welfare of people on fringes of forests; attach GPS trackers and dash cams to safari vehicles within two months; follow all NTCA guidelines, wildlife and forest conservation laws.

The safaris were banned on November 7, 2025 owing to demands by farmers' leaders, followed by four successive incidents of human-animal conflicts between October 26 and November 7 on the fringes of BTR in Sargur taluk of Mysuru district, resulting in the death of three farmers. Farmers leaders claimed that the sound of and light from safari vehicles restricted the private space of animals and disturbed their activities and hence animals tend to move to safer places leading to human-animal conflict.

Followed by a report of a technical committee to assess eco tourism carrying capacity, Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar B Khandre announced the decision on Wednesday to lift the ban in a phased manner.

Cut under Cong govt more than previous BJP regime: Contractors' body

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: The state president of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA), R Manjunath, has alleged that the commission rates for clearing pending bills in several departments have increased under the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government compared to the previous BJP government.

R Manjunath

Speaking to reporters here, the KSCA president said, "It is very difficult to eliminate the commission culture. There is a need to curb the menace. A few departments are demanding cuts to clear the bills pending for the last three years and more," he charged.

There is no money with the Congress government. They would have cleared the pending bills if the government had money, he said.

Protest on March 6

"The state government has failed to clear bills worth Rs 38,000 crore pending for the last three years. The contractors are left to fend for themselves," he said and added that the association has planned a massive protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on March 6, when the chief minister presents the state budget. The contractors across the state will hold a symbolic protest by stalling the works for a day.

More than 30,000 contractors from across the state are expected to take part in the protest, Manjunath said.

Warning

He warned of an intensified protest, stalling works indefinitely from April, if the state government failed to respond to our demands.

Put your prison in order: HC raps prisons dept on non-production of undertrial for four years

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court on Saturday directed the prisons department to submit a report on steps taken to identify instances of prisoners not produced before concerned courts on hearing dates.

"Put your prison in order. Should this court pass an order to produce an undertrial before the concerned court? Highly incorrect. Accused are also human beings unless convicted. How long will you keep them in prison as undertrial prisoners?" Justice M Nagaprasanna said, hearing a matter on non-production of an undertrial before the court concerned for over 4 years.

The petitioner in the case, Imran alias Kulla, has been in prison for the past 4 years. The advocate said the petitioner could not be released from prison despite being granted bail, for not being able to arrange surety. Over 20 adjournments were recorded in court concerned since the prison authorities failed to produce the accused on the date of hearing, even through video conferencing, the advocate said.

It was submitted that a head constable of HAL station reported to the court that an non-bailable warrant issued against the petitioner could not be executed as the accused was not traceable, while he was in prison in a crime registered by HAL police.

In the previous hearing, the court had ordered personal presence of the prisons DIG and DCP Whitefield. Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty, on instruction of DCP Whitefield, who was present before the court, submitted that a departmental enquiry will be initiated against the head constable.

On non-production of undertrials, the court asked the DIG Prisons as to what measures are being taken. "What do you do with the accused when trial is on? Don't you produce him before court? Not once have you brought him (petitioner) outside. What is all this happening? All these things need to be set right. How long can you hold these prisoners without trial, without producing them before court?" the judge said orally.

The court directed the DIG to submit a report on production of undertrials. "The DIG prisons undertakes before this court that appropriate steps would be taken to identify all persons who have not been produced before court in the next 2 weeks and place a report as to what steps they have taken to identify and not repeat same anomaly in not bringing prisoners before court and courts adjourning the matter for appearance," it said, adjourning the matter to Mar 6.

Leopard caught in fence, dies

BASAVAPATNA (DAVANGERE DIST), DHNS: A leopard died after getting trapped in a wire fence erected around areca plantation at Nilogal in Channagiri taluk on Saturday.

A farmer who came to plantation in the morning for irrigating the crops, found the leopard trapped in the wire fence and struggling to free itself. He alerted the forest officials, who rushed to the spot, called the forest department's anaesthetist in Shivamogga. However, before he arrived, the leopard had breathed its last.

Forest officials burnt the carcass in the presence of villagers.

Inadequate follow-up action hinders anti-graft measures in rural job scheme

PAVAN KUMAR
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Rigorous social audits in the four southern states have led to higher detection of misappropriation of funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). However, inadequate follow-up action against errant officials has hindered efforts to curb corruption and recover misused funds.

Experts point out that most states across the country have a poor record in conducting social audits, limiting their ability to detect corruption or recover siphoned funds.

Since the inception of the scheme, state-level Social Audit Units (SAUs) have reported 11.16 lakh cases nationwide, detecting misappropriation amounting to Rs 1,995 crore. Of the total misused funds, nearly 71% has been reported from four southern states — Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka.

In contrast, weak social audit mechanisms in several northern, northeastern and western states have resulted in fewer reported cases and minimal detection of corruption.

For instance, in Karnataka, between 2006 and 2026, the Directorate of Social Audit reported 1.34 lakh cases involving misappropriation of Rs 327 crore. During the same period, Gujarat's SAU detected only 76 cases, amounting to a loss of Rs 21 lakh.

A file photo of a workers serving under the job guarantee scheme. Since the inception of the MGNREGS, state-level Social Audit Units (SAUs) have reported 11.16 lakh cases nationwide, detecting misappropriation amounting to Rs 1,995 crore.

Tamil Nadu has reported the highest number of cases (3.37 lakh), with misappropriation of Rs 410 crore over the past two decades. Andhra Pradesh (2.48 lakh cases; Rs 477 crore) and Telangana (1.61 lakh cases; Rs 199 crore) rank second and third, respectively, while Karnataka stands fourth. The remaining 30 states and Union Territories (UTs) together account for 2.33 lakh cases involving Rs 581 crore.

Satish Modi, Assistant Professor at Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, whose team has studied the implementation of SAUs in a majority of states, said: "Unlike in South India, governments in the rest of the country have not given due importance to SAUs. Though mandated, many states have not even constituted SAUs, resulting in continued fund leakage."

Section 17 of the MGNREGA Act makes social audit a statutory requirement. Gram Sabhas are mandated to monitor and conduct social audits of works to ensure transparency and accountability. The Act also requires State governments to establish or identify independent SAUs to facilitate these audits.

In 2025–26, a Central monitoring team visited nearly 55 districts across the country and observed several irregularities, including absence of works on the ground despite records showing execution, implementation of non-permissible works, financial irregularities, improper documentation, splitting of works to obtain approvals from lower-level authorities, engagement of contractors in violation of the Act, fake or inactive job cards, manipulated muster rolls, and creation of incomplete or poor-quality assets not aligned with local development needs.

Raichur-based social activist Abhay Kumar said corruption in MGNREGS is prevalent, as in other government schemes. "Compared to the rest of India, southern states have been auditing works as mandated by the Act. However, the bigger issue is prevention of corruption, punishment of culprits, and recovery of swindled funds. Unfortunately, all states have failed in this regard," he said.

SAMEER SHUKLA
Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

"The number of cases reported by SAUs highlights that the state has been closely monitoring MGNREGS works. Strict action has also been taken against errant officials.

SATISH MODI
Assistant Professor at Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh

"Unlike in South India, governments in the rest of the country have not given due importance to SAUs. Though mandated, many states have not even constituted SAUs, resulting in continued fund leakage.

Government data tabled in Parliament shows that between 2015 and February 2026, 113 FIRs were filed nationwide for fund misappropriation, 1,114 officials were suspended, and 1,854 employees were terminated. Nearly 18 states and Union Territories recorded zero FIRs during this period. The country is yet to recover nearly Rs 305 crores of swindled funds.

Sameer Shukla, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, said cases of fund misuse flagged by SAUs account for less than 1% of the total works undertaken by the state over the years.

"The number of cases reported by SAUs highlights that the state has been closely monitoring MGNREGS works. Strict action has also been taken against errant officials," he said.

A tractor trailer turned turtle killing four agriculture labourers from Yavatmal district in Maharashtra, in Jamkhandi tow, Bagalkot district, on Saturday. DH PHOTO

Four from Maharashtra killed as tractor trailer turns turtle in Jamkhandi

JAMKHANDI (BAGALKOT DISTRICT), DHNS: Four people, inculding a two-year-old boy, were killed when the tractor trailer they were travelling in toppled near Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Circle on Mudhol road in the town in the small hours of Saturday.

A total of 21 people, agricultural labourers from Guppwadi in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra, were roped in for sugarcane harvesting at Yeragatti. The accident occurred when they were returning home. The tractor trailer toppled when the driver jumped a road hump. Trailer got severed from the engine and fell into a roadside ditch.

Tractor dirver Pundalik Shakurao Pande's wife Manisha Pande (19), son Alki Pande (2), his sister Lakshmi Chirmadi (22) and a relative Rekha Boke (40). The condition of two others is said to be critical while the remaining people sustained minor injuries.

Superintendent of Police Siddharth Goel, DySP Roshan Zameer, CPI Mallappa Maddi and PSI Anil Kumbar visited the spot.

The Jamkhandi Town police have registered a case.

Educate parents on facilities at govt schools: Dept's reminder to teachers

It tells them to keep track of children absent for long stretch

BENGALURU, DHNS

As the current academic year will close in a few weeks and next academic year will begin from June, the Department of School Education and Literacy has issued a reminder for government school teachers to concentrate on admissions and to track school children.

In the reminder, the department has asked the teachers to keep track of the children who are absent to schools continuously.

"It has been observed that several children are absent to schools and PU colleges due to migration in the middle of the academic year. To identify such children, the schools must begin Admission Awareness Campaigns," the reminder states.

Admission awareness campaigns

To attract more students to government schools, the department started the Admission Awareness Campaign from November 2025 and it will be on till June 2026. It is the first-of-its-kind campaign from the government side to compete with private ones.

"During the campaign, the teachers have to educate parents and children about the facilities provided at the government schools, including English medium, free uniform, bag, books, shoes, food, milk and boiled eggs," the notification stated.

Out-of-school kids

"From February 2026 to March 2026, the teachers should visit the highly populated areas to identify the children aged between 6 years and 18 years and track their school and college admissions, number of days they have attended classes and out-of-school-children if any," teachers said.

Failure to deposit money in ATMs: two booked

HASSAN, DHNS: A case has been registered by the police against two people of a private company for failing to deposit Rs 3.40 crore in 28 ATMs belonging to 15 banks in Hassan.

Based on a complaint by the branch manager of the company, located at Gowrikoppal in Hassan, the case has been registered at the Badavane Police Station in Hassan.

The issue came to light during the auditing on February 18.

The company was supposed to deposit the money in the ATMs of the Canara Bank, the State Bank of India, the Karnataka Bank, ICICI, and others.

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MEG & CENTRE
ST. JOHNS ROAD, BENGALURU - 560 042. Ph.: 080-25365053.
E-mail : kvmegbangalore@gmail.com, Website : megcentre.kvs.ac.in

FIRM REGISTRATION FOR THE YEAR 2026-27

In the said session, on the basis of requirement. Registration of firms for the above said session are called for by submitting prescribed formats for Civil Work, Plumbing, Carpentry Work, Painting Work, Electrical Work, Flooring and Masonry, Supply of Drinking Water, Garbage Collection & Disposal, Catering Work, Bus / Transport Facility, Tent, Lighting and Generator Services etc. Submit the desired documents in prescribed format before **28.02.2026 till 4.00 p.m.** through speed post or by hand in the Vidyalaya Office. Firm Registration Form can be downloaded from **School Website : megcentre.kvs.ac.in** or obtained from the **School Office from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.**

Sd/- PRINCIPAL

ARMY INSTITUTE OF FASHION AND DESIGN
(A Unit of Army Welfare Education Society)
Nagareshwara Nagenahalli, PO-Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077. **Tele : 6363849144**
E-Mail : **aifd@awesindia.edu.in** Web : **www.aifd.edu.in** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Army Institute of Fashion and Design (AIFD), Bangalore is a unit of Army Welfare Education Society Campus, Bangalore. Bio Data/Resume are invited for the following vacancies:-

• Assistant Librarian (FAD) (1 Post) • Accounts Clerk (1 Post)
Store Keeper (1 Post) • Boys Hostel Warden (1 Post)
• Girls Hostel Assistant Warden (1 Post) • Electrician (IDD) (1 Post)
• Carpenter (FAD) (1 Post) • Plumber (1 Post) • Driver (2 Posts)
• Maintenance Supervisor (1 Post) • Gardener (1 Post)

For method to apply, Qualification and Salary, Please refer to our website, **www.aifd.edu.in** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**
Last date : **09th March, 2026**

Sd/-
Registrar and HoA

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

e-Auction Notification
Attractive, Revised Prices

Shri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency
& Chairman BDA

Minimum raise of Bid Price in multiples of Rs. 1000 per sq. mtr.

Date of Commencement of e-Auction: 02.03.2026
Last date & time to express interest of participation in e-Auction: 13.03.2026, 5.00 p.m. IST

The Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, announces the e-Auction of a Commercial Site (Bulk Land). The auction / sale of the site is conducted in accordance with the Bangalore Development Authority's Disposal of Corner Sites and Commercial Sites Rules, 1984. The site is auctioned on **"AS IS WHERE IS"** BASIS.

Date of commencement of Live Bidding: 16.03.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
Last date for bid closing: 17.03.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

SOUTH ZONE

Sl. No.	Layout	Block	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in sq.mtr.)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr.	Engineer Contact
1	J.P. Nagar 8th Stage	1st Block	Kothanur	169/2,169/3	1364.75	0.00	13.49	85,000.00	8310525317
2	J.P. Nagar 8th Phase	2nd Block	Kothanur	38/1	2075.27	0.00	20.51	85,000.00	8310525317
3	J.P. Nagar 8th Phase	2nd Block	Kothanur	33/2	6745.62	1.00	26.68	85,000.00	8310525317
4	J.P. Nagar 9th Phase	1st Block	Alahalli	6/2 & 6/3	4097.44	1.00	0.50	90,000.00	8310525317
5	J.P. Nagar 9th Phase	4th Block	Thippasandra	10	14669.85	3.00	25.00	90,000.00	8310525317
6	Banashankari 3rd Stage		Katriguppe	120/1A	1224.53	0.00	12.10	1,21,500.00	9880946840
7	Further Extension of Anjanapura	9th Block	Gollahalli	30/1A 30/2	4755.05	1.00	7.00	77,800.00	8310525317
8	BTM 4th Stage	2nd Block	Devarachikkanahalli	24/5	992.01	0.00	9.80	1,00,000.00	8310525317

NORTH ZONE

Sl. No.	Layout	Block	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in sq.mtr.)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr.	Engineer Contact
1	Further Extension of RMV 2nd Stage	-	Bhoopasandra	1	976.00	0.00	9.65	1,51,000.00	8722433608
2	RMV 2nd Stage	-	Lottegollahalli	10/1 & 10/11F	2380.58	0.00	23.53	1,65,000.00	8722433608
3	Arkavathy Layout	21st Block	Thanisandra	31/4	1821.06	0.00	18.00	82,500.00	9980402882
4	Arkavathy Layout	21st Block	Thanisandra	31/5	708.19	0.00	7.00	82,500.00	9980402882

WEST ZONE

Sl. No.	Layout	Block	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in sq.mtr.)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr.	Engineer Contact
1	Jnanabharathi	1st Block	Valagerahalli	68/2	3743.34	0.00	0.93	82,000.00	8147510380
2	Jnanabharathi	2nd Block	Nagadevanahalli	108	5000.143	1	9.42	82,000.00	8147510380

EAST ZONE

Sl. No.	Layout	Block	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in sq.mtr.)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr.	Engineer Contact
1	CS-1A	-	Konadasapura	-	10037.17	2.00	19.21	50,000.00	8105864769
2	CS-1B	-	Konadasapura	-	7192.58	1.00	31.09	50,000.00	8105864769

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR e-AUCTION

1. The auction purchaser should be a Citizen of India.
2. EMD amount for all sites is **Rs. 1.00 Crore** except CS-1A which is **Rs. 2.00 Crore** and this amount along with the e-Auction fee should be remitted as mentioned on the e-Procurement portal. 5% Service charge on EMD shall be deducted during refund if remitted to BDA's account instead of E-Auction portal.
3. Advice letters will be sent by e-mail to successful bidders (Highest bidders) to remit 25% of the total cost after deducting EMD amount. Remittance challans should be submitted to Chief Accounts Officer, Finance Department, D Block 2nd Floor Room number 308. In case of failure to remit 25% as mentioned in the advised letter, EMD shall be forfeited.
   Bank Name:- Canara Bank, BDA Complex Branch, Kumara Krupa West, Bengaluru-560020.
   Savings Account Name:- The Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru.
   Savings Account Number:- 2828101053014
   IFSC Code No.:- CNRB0002828
   Mode of Payment:- RTGS / NEFT
   Bidders shall pay EMD & 25% from their own bank account only.
4. Uploading of PAN Card in e-auction portal is compulsory (Should be attested by Gazetted Officer/Notary/Attested by Embassy Office in case of N.R.I.). NRI's interested in participating in the e-auction may do so by uploading self attested certificates. Successful bidders can submit certification issued by Indian Embassy later.
5. Successful bidders after remitting 25% of the final bid amount should pay the balance 75% amount within 45 days of receiving the allotment letter from BDA.
6. EMD amount of unsuccessful bidders will be credited to their Account interest free, within reasonable time.
7. **For more general terms and conditions visit our website: https://bdakarnataka.in**
8. **There should be a minimum of 2 bidders with minimum 10% increase on the base price for the e-auction sites. Single Bidder will be rejected.**
9. During bidding, if there is any duplication of Nick names for the same site, such bid will be rejected without assigning any reasons.
10. E-auction bidders can download the New e-Auction bidding user manual by logging on to the website **https://bdakarnataka.in** For more information contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: 080-46010000 & 080-68948777.
11. Bidders are required to download the prescribed model signature format (in which applicant's name and father's name in Kannada & English Language) and Contact Information format from the website **https://bdakarnataka.in,** fill in the details and upload it on the website.
12. Joint Purchasers of the Site shall specify joint name in the Format provided and jointly upload their Aadhar card, PAN card, Marriage Certificate, Passport or any other Government issued documents in the e-Auction portal. Later requests for Joint registration will be rejected.
13. The auctioned Sites will be allotted to the successful bidders in the same condition as they are. Bidders participating in the e-auction must physically check the location of the site, Road width etc., before bidding. Sites allotted in the e-auction will not be cancelled / substituted.
14. Bidders participating in E-Auction are meant to adhere to all the terms and conditions specified above.
15. Regarding the e-Auction, Bidders should contact the Authority directly and should not contact any middle men.
16. BDA reserves the right to accept or reject the bid made by the successful bidder without assigning any reasons.

BIDDERS HAVE TO READ ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE BIDDING AND SHALL PARTICIPATE ACCORDINGLY.

Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

For location of sites and other details, log on to https://bdakarnataka.in
BDA Commericial site related Queries 080-23368435 / 23368036 and KPPP technical issues contact 080-46010000 / 68948777

No. BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-20/2025-26 Date: 20.02.2026

Sd/- Engineer Member

BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj remanded in judicial custody

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former minister and BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj was on Saturday remanded in judicial custody in connection with the murder of rowdy-sheeter Biklu Shivu. A special court passed the order after his custody period ended, and he was later shifted to Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

During the hearing, the court sought information about his health. Basavaraj also filed a plea seeking permission for home-cooked food in jail. Referring to the High Court's directions, the court rejected the request for home food and ordered that he be sent to judicial custody in accordance with prison rules.

A senior officer from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) said that "Basavaraj was thoroughly interrogated during his CID custody and he had revealed crucial evidence in the case.

DIGITAL DEMARCATION 100% accuracy in land mapping; chain mode to be phased out

Survey work no longer bane; 5k rovers to put it on fast lane

R SHRINIDHI
DHARWAD, DHNS

In a major step toward modernising land surveys, the revenue department has decided to equip surveyors with 5,000 advanced rover devices, replacing the nearly 200-year-old chain surveying method in use since 1806. The new technology enables real-time land mapping with greater speed and accuracy.

Land surveys are essential for demarcating property boundaries, mapping rivers and forests, preparing layouts and undertaking public and private development works.

Until now, applicants had to submit requests for land surveys through the Bhoomi portal and wait months due to staff shortages and adverse weather conditions.

The delays had put pressure on the department and triggered protests by farmers in north Karnataka districts of Dharwad, Gadag, Bagalkot, Koppal and Vijayapura, demanding quicker surveys and more surveyors.

To address these concerns, the department is introducing rover devices that will make land surveys faster, cost-effective and more transparent. The new system will generate digital land maps and reduce time required for surveys from days to just minutes.

Deputy director of survey and land records Mohan Shivannavar said, in a major technological shift aimed at resolving long-standing land disputes and speeding up surveys with 100% accuracy, the revenue department is set to replace the chain-and-staff method of land measurement with the GPS-based system.

The government has approved a plan to modernise survey operations and strengthen infrastructure of the revenue and land records departments.

The government has acquired 465 rovers for faster and more accurate land measurement. The new equipment will enable the department to provide digital 'C' copies of land maps to citizens quickly.

He said, traditional chain survey method required considerable manpower and time, especially as the department receives over 100 applications daily for property division, new layouts, road works and tank mapping. Surveyors often struggled to keep up with demand due to limited staff and challenging field conditions.

Farmer Adiveppa Mansur said he applied for survey of his agricultural land more than four months ago to divide the property among family members, but the process has been delayed due to staff shortages. He said surveyors are often either in the field or on leave, making it difficult for applicants to get timely service.

Officials of the land survey department demonstrate the functioning of the rover survey equipment in Dharwad. DH FILE PHOTO

Already, rovers are in use in Haryana, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

How it works?

The rover devices are integrated with continuous operating reference stations (CORS) and can provide highly accurate coordinates with a margin of error of just 1–2 centimetres. The system is nearly 20 times faster than traditional survey methods, officials said.

The rover consists of a compact, survey-grade receiver mounted on a pole, resembling a handheld device, which captures precise geographic coordinates.

This reduces manual errors and minimises possibility of tampering with survey results.

The new digital records will include QR codes, allowing landowners to access detailed and tamper-proof information about their properties.

Survey and land records commissioner J Manjunath said 465 surveyors have already been equipped with rover devices as part of the initiative. While a conventional survey of a small land parcel typically takes around two hours, with an additional three to four hours to prepare the map, the rover technology can complete the entire process in about 10 minutes.

He added the department had earlier experimented with digital global positioning system (DGPS) technology, but rover devices offer faster and more efficient results. The new system is expected to reduce disputes and legal cases arising from inaccuracies or manipulation in survey records.

The rovers will primarily be deployed in urban areas and will be used to verify digital sketches generated by drone surveys conducted in recent months. They will be linked to 41 CORS across Karnataka to ensure precise mapping.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the department was in the process of selecting agencies to supply 5,000 rover units and that the traditional chain survey system would be phased out.

He said surveying 400 acres of land using conventional methods can take up to 20 days for two surveyors, whereas the same work is completed in a single day using rover technology.

The minister said the government had issued a notification to recruit 750 new surveyors. He acknowledged the delay in the recruitment process due to internal reservation issues, but promised that the matter would be resolved soon and appointment orders issued shortly.

DH DECCAN HERALD
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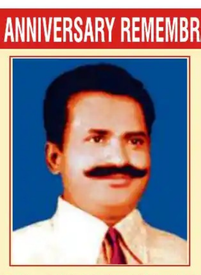
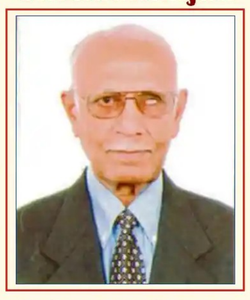
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

26th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE



Sri. J M KARIYANNA
DOB: 24-12-1936 - DOD : 22-02-2000
Founder St Sophia's Convent High School, Nagarabhavi. SMK Granites, Rajajinagar
He is no more with us. But has left behind his fame, inspiring genius, Virtues and his Deeds. He continues to adorn our hearts and minds.
Fondly remembered forever by:
Family Members and Staff

Shraddhanjali



With great sadness we announce the demise of
Mr. K.N. Ramaswami,
93 years, on Feb 21, 2026.
Survived by wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchild, brother, nieces, nephews and a large extended family and friends who were all dear to him.

CM's 'will not quit battlefield' post creates a buzz

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the ongoing power tussle within the ruling Congress in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's assertion that he would "not quit the battlefield" has sparked intrigue.

In a series of social media posts, Siddaramaiah said, "I will not quit the battlefield. There have been many conspiracies to finish me politically and they are not just against me but all of you who trust me, love me, and continue to bless and support me. Therefore, I will fight until my last breath against this politics of conspiracy, hatred, and jealousy. I am not a coward who runs away from the battlefield."

In his cryptic post, Siddaramaiah said he was being targeted for his stand on social justice and extended the argument to national politics, and said, "Rahul Gandhi began facing attacks after raising questions on caste census and reservation expansion."

Siddaramaiah

Describing his four-decade political journey as difficult, he said, "My political life has never been a bed of roses but a path of stones and thorns. Many of the attacks against me are also because of my caste. People, who are filled with resentment that a shepherd has become CM and is presenting budgets comparable to economic experts, are targeting me. They feel, if I am finished politically, their path will become easier."

He said social justice was not just his ideology, but the path he chose. "Wealth, power and opportunities must be distributed equally," said Siddarmaiah, making a case for the guarantee schemes and a legislation for allocating funds and reservation in government contracts up to Rs 1 crore for SCs and STs.

He said the BJP followed a "model of social injustice".

Don't play caste card: Chalavadi to CM

Siddu's remarks take even partymen by surprise

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy slammed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for claiming that he was being targeted over his social background (caste).

"During the last leg of his tenure as chief minister, he claims that he is being targeted due to his caste. Is he an untouchable? If Mallikarjun Kharge, G Parameshwara or K H Muniyappa claim to be targeted, it is understandable. But Siddaramaiah claiming it is ironical," Narayanaswamy said.

He said Siddaramaiah should not play the caste card and pretend to be helpless.

"He claims grave injustice. But after Devaraj Urs, no other leader has become the CM in Congress. Perhaps he is worried that if removed as CM now, he wouldn't be able to become prime minister in future," he mocked.

Narayanaswamy was responding to a series of social media posts by Siddaramaiah alleging that the rise of a shepherd to the post of chief minister had angered the privileged.

Siddaramaiah had stated, "Many of the attacks, criticisms and allegations made against me are also because of the caste I was born into. Those who believe that a person who should have remained a shepherd has become chief minister and is presenting budgets comparable to economic experts are filled with resentment, hatred and jealousy."

"There is a political calculation that if I am finished politically, their path will become easier," he added, giving rise to speculation over his own partymen trying to dislodge him.

Further, the BJP leader said it was not the NDA that was targeting Siddaramaiah but the Congress.

"The CM should clarify who is targeting him. Is it Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi or D K Shivakumar? A CM who has enjoyed power all through his career should not play the caste card. He should explain how he is being targeted and by whom," Narayanaswamy said.

CHALAVADI NARAYANASWAMY
Leader of the Opposition

"A CM who has enjoyed power all through his career should not play the caste card. He should explain how he is being targeted and by whom. The CM should clarify who is targeting him. Is it Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi or D K Shivakumar?

The CM's remark has surprised even his partymen. Priyank Kharge dismissed that there was any targeting.

"He has been CM for the longest tenure and tabled many budgets. He had broken Urs' record, given Bhagya scheme and now guarantees to benefit the poorest of the poor. He has enjoyed power and held several posts in the Congress party," Kharge said.

Iqbal Hussain, Ramnagara MLA who identifies with the Shivakumar camp, said all 140 MLAs feel the need for a change in leadership to nurture new leadership in the state and benefit the party in the upcoming elections.

"This is only our plea and there is no groupism in the party," he said.

MLA H C Balakrishna said Siddaramaiah had received good opportunities in the Congress. "He was made the leader of the opposition and now the CM. There is no question of any jealousy. He has got everything from the party," he said.

BJP leader C N Ashwath Narayan said all communities vote for both him and Siddaramaiah.

"It is both tragic and condemnable that at 80, Siddaramaiah is raising the caste issue for the sake of retaining power," he said.

Jarkiholi, Rajanna call on Kharge

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Loyalists of CM Siddaramaiah, including Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi and former minister K N Rajanna, met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday here and sought the party high command's intervention to resolve the leadership issue in the state.

After spending more than half an hour with Kharge, Jarkiholi told reporters, "We have raised the issue of the rumoured change of CM. We have also requested him to clarify on the matter."

He said the delegation had apprised Kharge of the current political situation in Karnataka and explained how frequent statements by some leaders about a possible leadership change had created confusion among MLAs and party workers.

He said Kharge assured the delegation that the high command would resolve the matter soon.

The delegation also included Congress MLAs N H Konaraddi and K S Basavanthappa. However, Kharge was not available for comments.

Jarkiholi and Rajanna have met the party leadership in Delhi several times in the past to urge that Siddaramaiah be allowed to complete his full term as chief minister.

High command has summoned DKS to Delhi on Feb 26: Iqbal Hussain

RAMANAGARA, DHNS: "The Congress high command has summoned Deputy CM D K Shivakumar to Delhi on Feb 26 on leadership change issue and our leader will get good news," Ramanagar Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain said on Saturday.

He told reporters here that ministers and party legislators want to see Shivakumar as CM for remaining period in current term.

Minister Satish Jarkiholi has met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and urged him to resolve the row. Shivakumar as KPCC chief has made sincere efforts to bring party to power. If Shivakumar is made CM, he will ensure it retains power after the 2028 elections, Hussain said.

On the chief minister's 'not quitting battlefield' posts on X, Hussain said, "All 140 MLAs, including me, have asked for leadership change. There's no vested interest or factionalism in it".

HOSKOTE PLANNING AUTHORITY
Mission Hospital Road, 1st Cross, Sri. Venkatadri Layout, Hoskote - 562114, Bangalore rural District.
Phone / Fax: 080-27934470 / 27935412.
E-mail: hosakote.pa@gmail.com URL: www.hoskote.tpa.gov.in
No: ಹೊಯೋಪ್ರಾ/ಹೊ.ನೌ/2025–26 Date: 21-02-2026
NOTICE
"e-Tender notification for Supplying of Man Power from Man Power Agency to Hoskote Planning Authority has been published in e-Procurement Portal of GOK. For details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**"
e-Tender Notice No: **TPA/2025-26/SE0072**
Sd/-
Joint Director of Town & Country Planning & Member Secretary,
Hoskote Planning Authority, Hoskote.
DIPR/CP/5815/Adverto/2025-26

N.W.K.R.T.C., GADAG DIVISION, GADAG
No/NWKT/GDG/TR/COMR/3197/25-26
Date : 21-02-2026
e-TENDER Notification No:02/2026
(Through KPP Portal Only)
Inviting e-Tender applications to Commercial Establishments coming under the jurisdiction of NWKRTC, Gadag Division.
Interested parties may participate in the tender through e-procurement portal **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal-home** within stipulated date and time as mentioned. For more details contact phone no :**7760991802, 9986802447, 7026047644.**
Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject/recall the tender without giving information to tender in the view of Corporation Good Will.
Sd/- Divisional Controller
NWKRTC, Gadag Division, Gadag
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/667/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010,
Tel : 0821-2424673/74, Fax No.0821-2424665,
Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in, https://nammakarnataka.in
Tender Notification Number: DAMH/CW/T-31/2025-26 Date: 19.02.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender & Service tener for the works of **DAMH/2025-26:OW/WORK_INDENT-148, 158, 176, 179 (Call-2) & SE0029 (Call-3)** under the standard tender documents KW-3 & Service Tender. The amount of minimum **Rs.59.25** lakhs to Maximum **Rs.84.35** lakhs kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** e-portal from date **20.02.2026** onwards.

Last date and time of any Queries for tender	26.02.2026, 17.00 hrs
Last date and time of tender submission	07.03.2026, 16.00 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	09.03.2026, 16.30 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	10.03.2026, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1715/2025-26

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KARATAGI
Tq| Karatagi Dist: Koppal
Ph: 08533-274232 email: itstaff_ulb_karatagi@yahoo.com
SL NO/TMC/WO/KRTG/2025-26 DATE:21.02.2026.
On Behalf Honorable Governor of Karnataka The Chief Officer Karatagi, invite Tender vide KTPP Act-2000 for the below mentioned Indent No. 55586 under SBM 2.0 form the PWD Registered Class -1 Contractors. The Tender may be submitted Through website only. Further information can be obtained from the office duty office hours and also from http://www.eproc.karanataka.gov.in

SL NO	Package Details	EMD (Rupees)
1	2	3
1	**DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55586**	**375000.00/-**

1) The Last Date to Submitte the Tender Through e-procurement Portal from Date : 07.03.2026. Time: 4:30 AM.
2) The Tender Received will be Technical Bid opened According e-procurement Portal Guideline On :09.03.2026 Time :4.30 PM.
3) The Tender Received will be Financial Bid opened According e-procurement Portal Guideline On:11.03.2026 Time :4.30 PM.
4) The power to cancel the tender lies with the Chief Officer TMC Karatagi. be obtained
5) For the Package details, Teams and Conditions and any changes in the calendar events can from office http://www.eproc.karanataka.gov.in

Sd/- President TMC, KARATAGI
Sd/- Chief Office TMC, KARATAGI

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CE DIVISION, HASSAN
KSRTC Regional Training Institute Building, Near Dairy Circle, Ring Road, Hassan - 573 201, Ph. : 08172-295262, e-mail : eehsn@ksrtc.org
No: KST/EEH/JE/602/2025-26 Date:20.02.2026
KPP PORTAL E-TENDER NOTIFICATION No.- 14/2025-26
Tenders are invited in KPP Portal e-procurement mode from eligible registered KPWD/CPWD/MES Contractors for the following work. Tender Notification and further details for the work can be downloaded free of cost from the e-procurement website **https://kppp.karmataka.gov.in** from **24.02.2026 onwards.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Last date for Submission of tenders
1	Additional Developmental works to the Bus Station at Anavatti, Soraba Tq.	206.00	3,09,000/-	23.03.2026

More details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, KSRTC, CE Division, KSRTC Regional Training Institute Building, Near Dairy Circle, Ring Road, Hassan during working hours on all working days.
DIPR/CP/JA/5801/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KSRTC, CE Division, Hassan.

CONG CM FACE KC Venugopal, Satheesan & Ramesh Chennithala vie for the spot

A race within the race brews in poll-bound Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal with KPCC chief K Sudhakaran, Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan, party leader Ramesh Chennithala and others during an event in Ernamkulam. PTI FILE

Alappuzha-native Reefa Mary was taken aback when Congress general secretary (organisation) and local MP K C Venugopal walked into the kitchen of her small house the other day and tasted the tapioca she was cooking. Venugopal was on a door-to-door visit in the coastal area to hear people's concerns over inflation in Kerala during the last 10 years of the Left Democratic Front (LDF)'s rule.

Despite being widely trolled online, Venugopal was seen the next day pillion-riding with a gig worker in the state's capital, Thiruvananthapuram. He also surprised industrialists with an interaction he initiated as the chairman of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

Recently, Venugopal was also seen sitting on the bare ground and eating with women workers as he heard their concerns over the MGNREGA being replaced with the VB-G RAM G Act. "Such interactions... are quite usual ahead of preparing election manifestos," he told his critics.

The sentiment may elicit respect, but rumour mills have a different take: Venugopal is looking to project himself as the Congress' chief-ministerial candidate, especially since the party hopes to return to power after a decade in Kerala.

Two senior Congress leaders — Opposition leader V D Satheesan and his predecessor Ramesh Chennithala — could be obviously aggrieved over Venugopal's proactive roles in Kerala, as they are the other CM probables.

That list was pretty long, but others who were on it — like Shashi Tharoor, former Kerala PCC president K Sudhakaran, and K Karunakaran's son K Muraleedharan — seem to have given up hope.

The push

As Opposition leaders are often considered the next CM by default, Satheesan is already trying to secure his position. He keeps saying that he is bound to lead the party to victory, and will exile to the forest if he can't.

Satheesan has gained popularity with his role in the recent local-body elections, Assembly by-polls, and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, in which the Congress witnessed impressive victories.

A five-time MLA from Paravur in his home district Kochi, Satheesan came to the limelight with his bold stands on a host of social and environmental issues, even deviating from the official party line. He became the Opposition leader in 2021, replacing Chennithala in the shake-up following the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)'s second consecutive Assembly poll defeat.

WHO'S NEXT?

- Congress banks on 10 years of anti-incumbency against Left Front govt
- As a result, the race to be the CM face is heating up
- K C Venugopal, V D Satheesan, and Ramesh Chennithala are the frontrunners
- The party's national leadership has warned its state counterpart to remain united
- It fears a rerun of how internecine rivalries scuppered its chances in the 2021 Assembly elections

Formerly a practising lawyer, Satheesan often displays articulation and oratory skills in heated political debates in the Assembly and other forums. He has the support of several young leaders, who want a generational change in the party. His recent no-compromise stand against sexual-assault accused young MLA Rahul Mamkootathil — his loyal supporter — boosted Satheesan's graph further.

Satheesan (61) is younger than Venugopal (63) and Chennithala (69). They could highlight his lack of experience as a minister as a drawback.

The considerations

Chennithala, who has been attempting a comeback following the 2021 setback, got a fillip at the right time when he was made the chairman of the Congress campaign committee for the Kerala Assembly polls. It gives him better grounds to take credit for the party's probable victory.

Being the eldest of the three, Chennithala obviously has a longer political career. At 28, he became the youngest minister in Kerala in the 1986 K Karunakaran-led government. He was also the home minister from 2014 to 2016 in the Oommen Chandy government.

A four-time MP, five-time MLA, and former Kerala PCC president, he has held various positions in the AICC, and is also a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee. He also enjoys a good rapport with senior AICC leaders, including the Nehru clan.

Venugopal, meanwhile, has a bright political career to boast of. He had served as a Union minister of state and as a Cabinet minister in Kerala. He was elected to the Kerala Assembly and the Lok Sabha thrice each, served as a Rajya Sabha member, and held key responsibilities in the party.

Other factors

Sensing this power struggle in Kerala, the AICC leadership is repeatedly reminding its Kerala-level counterpart that the priority is to win the election, and that the elected members would decide the eventual leader, with the high command's nod.

This gives Venugopal an edge: He is close to former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, who is believed to be the last word in the party these days.

The objections being raised from within the party against sitting MPs contesting Assembly polls appear targeted at hobbling Venugopal. However, he can enter the Kerala Assembly via the bypoll route, which would be a cakewalk.

Satheesan seems to be focusing more on building his mass support through bold stands and oratory skills. He may even take a leaf out of CPM leader V S Achuthanandan's book on countering internecine sidelining attempts with mass support.

Amid all this, the rumour mills are also churning out fresh narratives, like the CM seat-sharing pact.

As the leadership race continues as an open secret, one concern weighs heavily in the Congress: whether it will play spoilsport, as it did in 2021.

DMK kick-starts alliance negotiations

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamil Nadu's ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) will on Sunday kick-start seat-sharing negotiations with alliance partners for the April-May Assembly elections, with the first party being the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML).

The invitation to IUML came hours after the DMK constituted a seven-member committee under the leadership of treasurer T R Baalu to allot seats for alliance parties. Ministers K N Nehru, E V Velu, and M R K Panneerselvam, MPs Tiruchi Siva, and A Raja, and former Rajya Sabha member R S Bharathi are members of the committee.

"As per the tradition, we have invited IUML as the first party for seat-sharing talks. We will invite our alliance partners one by one in the next few days and hold the first round of talks. We may not be able to finalise the numbers in a single sitting. There are maybe a couple of sittings with each party," a senior DMK leader told *DH*.

The leader said Congress, which has been waiting for the constitution of the committee for the last two months, is likely to be the last party to be called since it is the second largest party after the DMK. "We have to first hear the demands of smaller parties before listening to larger parties. We will also call parties that will contest seats on the DMK's symbol before inviting Congress," the leader added.

The development comes at a time when there is a visible strain in DMK-Congress ties, with the former being upset with the latter for going public on its demand for power sharing.

DMK sources said despite the induction of a couple of parties like DMDK, the party is unlikely to reduce the number of seats for long-standing alliance partners. "We contested about 180 seats in our symbol in 2021, but we may have to forego over 10 seats additionally this time to alliance partners. We might be contesting over 160 seats this time," the leader added.

While the Congress is expecting about 35-37 seats and a Rajya Sabha berth, the DMK is likely to offer 25-28 seats. "If the Congress is persistent, we might increase the number to 30 but not beyond that," another DMK leader said. VCK, a prominent Dalit party, is expected to get about 8 seats, while the CPM and CPI are expected to get 6 seats each.

AIADMK leader's son joins TVK

CHENNAI, DHNS: In an embarrassment to the AIADMK, D Lokesh Tamilselvan, the son of party MLA and former Speaker P Dhanapal, on Saturday joined actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK).

D Lokesh Tamilselvan with TVK chief Vijay.

Tamilselvan was the AIADMK's candidate from Nilgiris constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections but could only secure the third position.

Lokesh, whose father Dhanabal is MLA from Avinashi and served as Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from October 2012 to May 2021, joined TVK in the presence of Vijay at the party's headquarters in Panaiyur on the East Coast Road.

Along with Lokesh, Chandrakumar, grandson of Dalit activist Immanuel Sekaran, and Catherine, daughter of former Union Minister Dalit Ezhilmalai, also joined the TVK.

Sekaran was a Dalit leader who was hacked to death in 1957, a day after he confronted prominent Mukulathor leader U Muthuramalinga Thevar at the Ramanathapuram collectorate.

Lokesh was among the children of prominent AIADMK leaders who contested the Lok Sabha elections in which the party leader drew a blank.

Storm over Cong's 'shirtless' act at AI meet

Leaders of other Oppn parties too criticise IYC protest

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, DHNS

Police stop Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha activists during a clash with Congress workers, amid a protest over the disruption at the AI Impact Summit, in Indore on Saturday. PTI

BJP workers in several states staged protests on Saturday against the Indian Youth Congress (IYC)'s "shirtless" demonstration at the India AI Impact Summit, accusing the Opposition party of tarnishing India's image on a global platform.

Condemning the act, BJP workers held demonstrations in places including Jammu, Jaipur, Patna, Bengaluru, Panchkula, and Indore. In Maharashtra's Thane, BJP activists showed black flags to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as he headed to a court hearing.

Leaders from other parties also criticised the IYC protest.

BSP chief Mayawati called it "highly objectionable and condemnable," noting in a post on X that the internationally attended summit saw individuals expressing anger in a "semi-nude manner," which she described as extremely inappropriate and damaging to the country's dignity.

The ruling and Opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh also condemned the protest.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called it irresponsible and harmful to India's global reputation. He said at a time when the country is positioning itself at the forefront of technological innovation, such protests send the wrong message internationally.

YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said the protest had made them feel ashamed. "No one should ever demean our country. Whatever our political differences may be, we should always present a united face to the world," said Jagan in a social media post.

IYC workers in 5-day police custody

A Delhi court on Saturday sent the four IYC workers, who were arrested for protesting at the AI Impact Summit venue a day ago, to five-day police custody.

Delhi Police sought five-day custody of the arrested protesters, arguing that they raised anti-national slogans and wore T-shirts with objectionable images of the PM.

It said the mobile phones of the accused persons were required to be recovered and, as they were from different states, custodial interrogation was necessary.

The counsel for the protesters argued that they were associated with a political party and had exercised democratic right to protest peacefully.

HCL, Foxconn lay foundation stone for Rs 3,700-crore chip-making unit

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the foundation stone laying ceremony of India Chip Private Limited's Semiconductor Park in Greater Noida. PTI

HCL Group and Foxconn on Saturday laid the foundation stone of a chip manufacturing unit, which is expected to be operational by 2028.

The two companies announced a Rs 3,700 crore investment in the joint venture facility, which will have the capacity to process 20,000 wafers per month. The joint venture entity is named India Chip Private Limited. HCL Group controls 60%, while Taiwan's Foxconn holds a 40% stake in the entity.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw laid the foundation stone for the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly & Test (OSAT) facility located at Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority in Jewar, Greater Noida. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the event.

"Developed India will be built only when India is self-reliant. For this, the Made-in-India chip is very important. Whatever India is doing in the field of technology in this decade, it will become the foundation of our capability in the 21st century," Modi said.

The PM noted that in the past 11 years, India has witnessed a monumental shift in its industrial landscape, with electronics manufacturing growing sixfold.

"This growth is most evident in the mobile revolution, where domestic production has increased 28-fold, and exports have surged by a staggering 100-fold," he added.

This milestone is especially significant as HCL, a global technology powerhouse with an expanding base of users for its world-class software platforms, celebrates its 50th anniversary—marking not just a legacy of leadership but a bold step into India's semiconductor future, it said.

The new facility is expected to create over 3,500 direct and indirect jobs, build local supply chains, and attract ecosystem partners across the semiconductor value chain.

Infiltrators to be removed from country in 5 yrs: Amit Shah

GUWAHATI, PTI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday asserted that Naxalism would be eliminated from the country by the March 31 deadline set by government, while illegal immigrants would be removed not only from the electoral rolls but also from the nation in next five years.

On the second day of his two-day visit to Assam, Shah attended the 87th CRPF Day Parade here and laid the foundation stone for the Rs 270-crore new campus of the state police's 10th Battalion, which would be constructed on land freed from encroachment by infiltrators.

Shah asserted that if India can be free of Naxals, it can also be free of infiltrators.

''Illegal immigrants would be removed not only from the electoral rolls but also from the country in five years," Shah said.

Pocso court orders FIR against Uttar Pradesh seer, disciple

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A special Pocso court in Prayagraj ordered on Saturday the registration of an FIR against Swami Avimukteshwaranand and his disciple in a case of alleged sexual abuse of children.

Additional District Judge Vinod Kumar Chaurasiya directed the police to register the FIR against the seer who claims to be the Shankaracharya of Jyotirmath, and investigate the matter on a petition filed by one Ashutosh Bramhachari.

According to police sources, the FIR would be registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act at the Jhusi Police Station in the Prayagraj district.

Bramhachari, who was the president of the Shree Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Nirman Trust, approached the court seeking the registration of an FIR against the seer and one of his disciples, alleging that some children were sexually abused at the seer's ashram in Varanasi.

The court earlier recorded videographed statements of two children and also perused a police report in this connection. It had then reserved its judgment.

Avimukteshwaranand has been engaged in a verbal duel with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after he was prevented from taking a dip in the Ganga last month.

TECH TEXTILES

AI to design sarees, help weavers craft them

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Want to design your own saree or any other fabric faster and with perfect colour combinations? TCS appears to have you covered.

The Indian-origin multinational tech company has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) platform that it says allows customers to create a three-dimensional model of their saree or any other fabric's design. It also reportedly assists weavers in producing it more accurately and quickly.

TCS showcased this solution, called the Intelligent Design Platform, at the recently-concluded AI Impact Summit here. "A customer can request a modern pattern mixed with a traditional Kanjivaram-style saree. The system generates it instantly, letting the weaver focus on the craft instead," an executive at the Tata booth told *DH*.

TCS showcased an AI-enabled weaving loom solution at the AI Impact Summit. (DH PHOTO)

It is said to drastically reduce the time needed for design selection and colour combination — from days or weeks to just minutes. It also reportedly helps minimise waste in the handloom sector, where products are often returned due to mismatched designs or execution errors. The Tata executive pegged the share of such products at 40%.

TCS also demonstrated Smart Weaver Assist — an LED-based system that guides the weaver on thread movement in real time. This is said to enable faster weaving of sarees or fabrics and let less-experienced weavers follow complex patterns.

"The TCS team has successfully piloted this software in the Kanjivaram saree cluster in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, which is renowned for producing exquisite heavy silk sarees," said the executive.

Although the technology is yet to be publicly launched, TCS is reportedly in discussions with the Handloom Corporation of India and the Union Ministry of Textiles to transfer its benefits to both weavers and customers.

Security alert in Delhi over Lashkar terror threat

NEW DELHI, PTI: Security was tightened across key religious and heritage sites in Delhi on Saturday, including in areas around the Red Fort and parts of Chandni Chowk, following intelligence inputs suggesting a possible terror threat, an official said.

Security agencies issued an alert on a possible explosion near Red Fort, a major tourist destination and high-security zone, after Central intelligence agencies indicated that Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has allegedly kept prominent religious places in India on its target list.

Sources said specific inputs suggested that a temple in the Chandni Chowk area could be among the potential targets. While the intelligence inputs are being verified and assessed, security has been stepped up in and around sensitive religious places and crowded public areas, they added.

Intelligence agencies indicated that LeT could be attempting to carry out an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)-based attack. The alleged plan is reportedly linked to attempts by the terror group to avenge the February 6 blast at an Islamabad mosque, sources said.

The alert comes in the backdrop of the deadly car explosion near the historic Red Fort on November 10, 2025, which killed at least 13 people.

SC issues pan-India directions to enforce solid waste rules

Says neglect of municipal solid waste will affect health, economy

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has issued a slew of pan-India directions to ensure enforcement of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, saying its neglect will affect health as much as the economy, since uncollected and unaccounted solid waste is a perennial challenge in the country.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and S V N Bhatti said that the present generation cannot afford to wait for further legislative refinement while existing implementation gaps persist, while noting "uneven" compliance with the rules across India.

The bench pointed out that courts have repeatedly reminded that the state has a duty to protect the environment and thereby to ensure the well-being of all the citizens. "Therefore, the time is ripe to implement and protect the Right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," the court said.

Highlighting that the right to a clean and healthy environment is an inseparable part of the Right to Life guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution, the bench noted, "The annual report-2021-2022 on waste management by the Central Pollution Control Board discloses that approximately 170,000 tonnes per day (TPD) of municipal solid waste was generated by the domestic, commercial, industrial and ancillary activities in the country."

WASTE WOES

- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, will be effective from April 1.
- Consumption of packaged goods introduces a massive influx of solid waste
- The court notes that the rate of processing of waste remains a big bottleneck

Noting that the collection efficiency has improved in many cities like Bhopal and Indore, the court noted that the rate of processing remains a big bottleneck, and the waste that is unprocessed often ends up in unscientific landfills or legacy dumpsites.

Emphasising that no one has a right to affect the lives of others through their acts of omission or commission in dealing with solid waste generated by them and their activities, the bench said, low-income group areas, slums, villages near corporations and municipalities are not dumping sites for solid waste generated in urban local bodies.

"Consumption of packaged goods, the move from a repair culture to a discard culture and the growth of online delivery services have introduced a massive influx of packing material as solid waste," the court said in its order on February 19, 2026.

Dealing with pleas by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation and others, the court issued directions to ensure that the executive has the requisite mechanism required to enforce the SWM Rules, 2026, which will be effective from April 1.

Among the directions, the court said, the councillors/mayors and their chairpersons, corporators or ward members, being the primary elected representatives of the people, would be designated as the lead facilitators for source-segregation education.

The court said the district collectors would communicate the identified problems and steps taken by stakeholders to the chief secretary in a time-bound manner.

The court directed local bodies to e-mail photographic evidence alongside their compliance reports to the offices of district collectors to verify the actual progress in waste removal and infrastructure readiness.

The bench said the local bodies must immediately communicate the 2026 Rules and a copy of the apex court's order to all the identified bulk-waste generators, all of whom must be fully statutory compliant by March 31.

Communal tensions flare up in T'gana dist over shop dispute

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Tension flared up in Banswada town of Telangana's Kamareddy district on Friday when two religious groups clashed, resulting in minor vandalism. In response to the clashes, right-wing organisations called for a bandh on Saturday, which was observed amid heavy police deployment.

Kamareddy SP Rajesh Chandra said the situation remained under control on Saturday. AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi expressed concern over the rising communal incidents in Telangana, alleging that right-wing crowds specifically targeted small shops and street vendors from the minority community in Banswada. He further claimed that "one of the accused was beaten by local Sangh Parivar goons in police custody".

Though local reports pointed out that the clash stemmed from a local Muslim shopkeeper objecting to a Hindu devotional song played at a store on Friday, the SP said an altercation between a shop salesgirl and a customer led to communal tension in the town.

"A customer harassment incident took place at a shop yesterday in which both were from two different religions. Police immediately intervened and arrested the male customer. Later, it turned into communal tension in which some anti-social elements also joined, leaving one of our constables with blood injuries. We have identified around 60 people involved in the clashes and booked them under relevant severe sections," Kamareddy SP Rajesh Chandra said.

Rahul appears before court in RSS defamation case

THANE, PTI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday appeared before a court at Bhiwandi in the district in a defamation case filed by an RSS activist, and presented his party's Maharashtra unit chief Harshwardhan Sapkal as his new 'surety' or guarantor for bail.

Rahul Gandhi

As he travelled to Bhiwandi by road after landing in Mumbai, BJP workers showed him black flags at Mulund toll plaza and shouted slogans, accusing the Congress of maligning India's image through the Youth Congress's protest at the AI summit in Delhi.

Gandhi, accompanied by Sapkal, party MP Varsha Gaikwad and his lawyers Narayan Iyer and Kushal Mor, reached the magistrate's court around 10:30 am.

The court had asked the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha to appear in person and provide a new surety following the death of previous guarantor, former Union Minister Shivraj Patil Chakurkar, in December last year. Chakurkar had stood surety when the court granted bail to the Congress leader in 2016 upon his appearance.

Sapkal on Saturday filed an application before the magistrate requesting permission to stand as surety for the accused. After the verification of his affidavits and other documents, the court granted the plea.

Police unearth illegal egg harvesting racket in Thane

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a shocking incident in Mumbai's suburb of Badlapur, police have unearthed a racket allegedly involved in the extraction of ova from women and their supply to clients across the country.

Raids were conducted at several IVF centres in Badlapur, Ambernath and Vithalwadi in neighbouring Thane district.

Stocks of medicines were also seized. Three women, including the alleged mastermind Sulakshna Gadekar, have been arrested.

According to reports, the gang targeted financially distressed women and lured them with sums ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000.

Police said Sulakshna allegedly administered injections to the women without medical supervision to stimulate egg production. Once the egg count increased, the women were referred to IVF centres, where the ova were extracted and allegedly sold with the involvement of doctors.

Corrigendum

In the article titled 'Galgotias University told to vacate AI Summit expo after robodog row', the accompanying image and caption provided by a news agency, incorrectly identified CynLr's robotics booth as the Galgotias University stall. The error is regretted.

Renegotiate US trade deal: Cong to Centre

Says PM Modi compromised, now stands exposed

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DEMAND DETAILS

- US Supreme Court, in a 6-3 verdict, deemed Trump tariffs illegal
- Cong chief Mallikarjun Kharge asks PM to clarify why he compromised national interest
- Party leader Jairam Ramesh says interim agreement should be put on hold 'as there is a rethink in India's policy'

With the US Supreme Court striking down President Donald Trump's global tariffs, Congress on Saturday asked the government to put on hold the India-US interim trade deal and renegotiate its terms to ensure that the interests of farmers are not hurt, even as top leader Rahul Gandhi claimed that "compromised" Prime Minister Narendra Modi will "surrender again" as he "cannot renegotiate".

The renewed attack came as the US Supreme Court, in a 6-3 verdict, ruled that the tariffs imposed by Trump on nations around the world were illegal, even as the US president said the trade deal with India was "alive".

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul said, "The PM is compromised. His betrayal now stands exposed. He can't renegotiate. He will surrender again."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked why the government did not wait for the US Supreme Court judgment.

He asked Modi to "tell the truth" about "what or who" pressured him into "compromising" national interest and strategic autonomy.

"Was it the Epstein Files? Will the government wake up from its slumber and deliver a deal that preserves 140 crore Indians' self-respect and our farmers', workers', small businesses', and traders' interests?" he said.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said, "The government needs to put the interim agreement on hold. We demand that the PM categorically state that we will not carry out import liberalisation after the US Supreme Court decision, as there is a rethink in India's policy."

Citing the joint statement, which made it clear that the US and India agree that they can modify their commitments in the event of any changes from either side, he told reporters that the provision in the framework for the interim deal provides a window for New Delhi to renegotiate the deal and eliminate import liberalisation that impacts the farmers.

He also said the government could renegotiate the deal, including on the provision of India importing worth $100 billion every year, while insisting that even the new 10% tariff, which is less than 18% agreed in the deal, is three times more than the tariff imposed by the US on India before coming up with a reciprocal tariff.

Ajit Pawar death: Nephew Rohit seeks Union minister's exit, writes to PM

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar from Maharashtra urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure justice to his uncle, the state's late deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, alleging that the Baramati plane crash was linked to politically and financially influential people.

He also urged the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to raise the issue.

The Karjat-Jamkhed MLA also reiterated his demand for the resignation or removal of Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu till the probe into the crash is over.

Rohit had raised serious questions about Capt Sumit Kapur, the pilot-in-command, and VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd, which operated the ill-fated Learjet whose crash claimed the lives of all five on board.

NCP (Sharad Pawar) leader Rohit Pawar

In a letter to Modi, Rohit said: "Serious questions have arisen about the company VSR and its links with Rammohan Naidu. These links must be investigated by an independent authority."

He added: "...I request that Rammohan Naidu be asked to resign from his post until the investigation is completed. This is necessary to ensure that there is no influence or interference in examining whether the DGCA was compromised in any manner in relation to VSR."

Rohit said it had to be ensured that there was no influence by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, and VSR on the investigations.

He elaborated: "There can be two types of conspiracies: political and commercial. We want to find out which one it is.... People have questions, and I am addressing them."

Rohit also said: "Today, the proof presented pertains to the TDP. The TDP MP, who is now the Union civil aviation minister, has close connections with VSR. The TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu's family members have invested in the company."

He continued: " We are also hearing that several members of Naidu's family attended (VSR Ventures) owner V K Singh's son (a director in the company and a pilot) Rohit Singh's wedding (in 2025). If such information is being brought forward, the minister in question should not continue in that position."

Allegations against Naidu, party are baseless, say TDP sources

With NCP-SP MLA Rohit Pawar seeking ouster of Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu in connection with the Baramati plane crash, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) sources on Saturday said the allegations seem to be politically motivated and are completely unfounded, baseless, reports PTI.

The AAIB probe is technical, transparent, and entirely evidence-driven, they said, adding that the investigation body should be allowed to do its job and come up with evidence-based answers.

Plaints filed with CJI against sitting judges

Year	Number of Complaints
2016	729
2017	682
2018	717
2019	1,037
2020	518
2021	686
2022	1,012
2023	977
2024	1,170
2025	1,102

As per the 'In-House Procedure'

- Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against Supreme Court judges and High Court Chief Justices
- HC Chief Justices are competent to receive complaints against HC judges
- Complaints received through CPGRAMS or in any other form are forwarded to the CJI or the concerned HC Chief Justice

(Source: Ministry of Law and Justice, Lok Sabha)

Agartala-Kolkata bus service via Dhaka set to resume

AGARTALA, PTI: The operator of the India-Bangladesh bus service connecting Agartala with Kolkata via Dhaka, which has been suspended for a year following political turmoil in Bangladesh, began a trial run on Saturday for the resumption of the service, an official said.

No fresh permission is needed to recommence the service as the agreement between the governments has not been cancelled, Manoranjan Debnath, the manager of the international bus service operator, said.

The Royal-Maitri international bus service has been suspended for the past year due to political turmoil in Bangladesh, resulting in visa issues and a sharp decline in the number of passengers. With the situation improving, the operator now seeks to recommence the service and initiated a trial run.

Asked whether they have the authorisation to resume the service, Debnath said there is no need to seek permission as the bilateral agreement between India and Bangladesh, which was signed in 2001, has not been cancelled.

"We just halted the bus service because of acute shortage of passengers due to some unavoidable issues. The number of passengers had fallen to an all-time low. Besides, the visa problem was there. These had prompted us to shut down the service. With the situation improving in Bangladesh, we want to resume bus service from next week," he said.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha welcomed the initiative to resume the India-Bangladesh bus service.

"The uncertainty is now over with the formation of an elected government in Bangladesh. This is a good sign in bilateral ties. We hope other issues will also be addressed," Saha told reporters.

Five school teachers arrested for 'raping' 13-year-old girl in Odisha

KENDRAPARA (ODISHA), PTI: Five teachers of a private school were arrested on Saturday for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl in Odisha's Kendrapara district, police said.

The arrests were made after the father of the class 7 student and the district child welfare committee lodged separate complaints at the Rajkanika police station, alleging that the accused teachers had raped the minor, a senior officer said.

The parents of the student approached the district child welfare committee after their daughter accused the teachers of abusing her sexually for a long period, he said.

The committee initially investigated the allegation and brought the matter to the police, an official said.

"A complaint was lodged on February 18. After investigation, we referred the case to the police for legal action," child welfare committee member Swagatika Patra said.

The panel also directed the district education officer to carry out a separate investigation into the allegation, she said.

Priyanka, DKS to counter BJP in Assam

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

CAMPAIGN BEGINS

- Cong campaign begins at Kamakhya temple, Guwahati
- Shivakumar cites strong anti-incumbency against BJP
- Priyanka releases 20-point chargesheet against CM Sarma
- Assembly elections for 126 seats likely in April

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with state president Gaurav Gogoi during the party meeting ahead of the state Legislative Assembly election. PTI FILE

With Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma pushing the BJP's "indigenous vs infiltrators" narrative to retain power for a third straight term, the Opposition Congress is banking on Priyanka Gandhi and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to support state leader Gaurav Gogoi as key strategists.

Priyanka, for the first time, is heading the party's candidate screening committee, while Shivakumar has been appointed as one of the senior central observers. Former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and former Jharkhand MLA Bandhu Tirkey are the two other observers.

On Friday, Priyanka defended Gogoi against Chief Minister Hemant Biswa Sarma's charge of links with Pakistan.

Sources within the Congress said that while Priyanka, during campaigns and candidate selections, will seek to reach out to all communities to advance push Gogoi's slogan of "restoring Bor Axom" (secular greater Assam), Shivakumar and other central leaders will assist in implementing counter-strategies. "Shivakumar and Tirkey fought and won against a similar communal narrative of the BJP in Karnataka and Jharkhand elections. Their experience will prove handy for us here," a Congress leader in Assam told *DH*.

Tirkey, an Adivasi leader, will reach out to Adivasi voters in Assam's tea gardens and highlight how CM Sarma's campaign around locals vs Bangladeshi migrants during the 2024 Jharkhand Assembly polls failed to stop the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Congress combine from retaining power. "Although we lost the elections in Chhattisgarh in 2023, Baghel has experience of fighting the BJP," the leader added.

Congress workers had welcomed Priyanka to Rajiv Bhavan, the party's state headquarters, with 'gayan bayan' — the traditional dance and music of Vaishnavite culture. According to party workers, while this was customary, it was also a strategic move to counter Sarma's narrative that the Congress was a party for the Miyas, a term derogatorily used to refer to Bengali-speaking Muslims. The BJP often labels Bengali-speaking Muslims as "infiltrators".

Elections for the 126-member Assam Assembly are likely to be held in April.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Assam poll observer

"There is a strong anti-incumbency against the BJP in Assam. Realising this, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma is making divisive statements.

SIR of voter rolls in J&K from April

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The Election Commission of India is set to launch the next phase of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls across the country from April 2026, with the exercise in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory expected to begin then.

The Commission has directed Chief Electoral Officers of 22 States and UTs (including J&K) to complete preparatory work for the intensive voter-list update ahead of the proposed April start.

The SIR process has drawn sharp political reactions in some regions. In J&K, the Congress has publicly vowed to strongly oppose the SIR, alleging that the methodology is being misused and questioning its feasibility given the UT's harsh winter conditions, making door-to-door work difficult. Party leaders have termed the SIR as a potential tool for arbitrary exclusions.

Voter counts rise in 3 N Kerala dists despite statewide drop

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Even as the total number of voters in Kerala's 14 districts came down by 8.9 lakh after the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, three in the state's north witnessed an increase.

Malappuram, a Muslim-dominated district, recorded an increase in voters by over 2 lakh from 34.13 lakh to 36.15 lakh.

The Kannur and Kasaragod districts recorded a voter-number rise by around 47,200 and 18,000, respectively.

The total number of NRI voters also increased to 2,23,558 from around 90,000 in 2025.

State capital Thiruvananthapuram suffered the maximum drop, of around 3.2 lakh voters, followed by Ernakulam (Kochi), which saw a drop of 1.83 lakh.

The final electoral rolls of Kerala after the SIR were formally published on Saturday. The total number of voters has come down from 2,78,50,855 to 2,69,53,644.

Among the current voters, 1,38,27,319 were women, who numbered more than the 1,31,26,048 male and 277 third-gender electors.

While women outnumbered men in all the districts, the equation is the opposite in the Malappuram district, which has the highest number of voters. The total number of voters is 36,15,970, of whom 18,10,627 are men, 18,05,303 women and 40 are of the third gender.

The Thiruvananthapuram district has the highest number of third-gender voters: 54. The Kasaragod Assembly constituency has the same number of male and female voters: 1,04,866.

Among the NRI voters, 1,90,090 are male, 33,458 female, and 10 third gender.

THREAT TO STABILITY Move comes as Palestinian Authority faces financial collapse

Israel's West Bank land registry drive triggers annexation fears

Israel's decision to formalise land registration across the occupied West Bank is drawing international condemnation and raising concern among diplomats that incremental administrative steps could amount to de facto annexation while pushing the Palestinian Authority (PA) toward financial and political collapse.

The measures approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet last week include creating a comprehensive land registry, publishing ownership records and easing procedures for Israelis to purchase land or develop religious sites. Israeli officials say the steps are intended to clarify property rights and prevent illegal construction. Critics say they could enable large areas to be reclassified as state land, accelerating settlement expansion.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a leading advocate of the policy, said the measures "fundamentally change the legal and civic reality in Judea and Samaria and bury the idea of a Palestinian state," underscoring the ideological aims of Israel's far-right coalition partners.

Analysts and supporters of the two-state solution say the focus on Area C — about 60% of the West Bank under full Israeli control — is especially significant. The area contains most settlement land reserves and is widely seen as essential to the territorial contiguity of a future Palestinian state.

Hagit Ofran of the Israeli anti-settlement group Peace Now said the registry system is complex and costly, warning that land could default to state ownership unless Palestinians can prove title. Jonathan Mizrachi, co-director of the NGO, said longstanding ambiguity over land ownership may now be used to reclassify property. "A lot of land that Palestinians consider theirs, they will find out it's not theirs under this new registration process," he said.

Eroding PA control

The land measures coincide with an acute financial crisis in the Palestinian Authority, which relies on tax revenues collected by Israel. Israel has frozen roughly $4.4 billion in transfers — about 70% of Palestinian public income — in a dispute over stipends paid to families of Palestinians involved in attacks on Israelis.

Palestinian Finance Minister Estephan Salameh warned that the situation threatens the viability of Palestinian self-rule. "What we are experiencing is not a passing crisis, but an existential threat to public finances, the economy, and the entire Palestinian national project," he said.

Civil servants have been paid partial salaries for months, eroding public confidence in the PA. Mohammad, a 35-year-old government employee who declined to give his surname, said a more than 40% wage cut forced him to work part-time as a taxi driver. "How am I supposed to cover the expenses of a home and children?" he said.

Diplomats say a financial collapse of the PA could create a governance vacuum in the West Bank, forcing Israel to assume greater administrative responsibility — a scenario Israeli security officials have long sought to avoid. Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar and Jordan condemned the measures as illegal under international law. Jordan's King Abdullah II said the steps "undermine efforts to restore calm and threaten to exacerbate the conflict," according to a royal court statement.

The European Union called the decision a "new escalation" extending Israeli control and urged its reversal. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described the move as "destabilising" and warned it could lead to dispossession of Palestinians and further erode prospects for a two-state solution.

UN rights chief Volker Türk said the policies risk permanently altering the demographic composition of the occupied territory and forcing Palestinians from their land.

India opposes Israeli action

At the United Nations, India joined more than 100 countries and organisations in condemning Israel's "unilateral" measures aimed at expanding its "unlawful presence" in the West Bank.

The joint statement said such decisions violate international law and must be reversed, rejecting any attempt to alter the demographic composition or status of Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem. It reiterated support for a negotiated two-state solution based on UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

India has long backed a sovereign Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security and was the first non-Arab country to recognise Palestine in 1988.

More than 5,00,000 Israeli settlers live in West Bank settlements considered illegal under international law, alongside about three million Palestinians. Peace talks have been frozen since 2014, and the Gaza war has further marginalised diplomatic efforts.

While United States President Donald Trump has opposed formal annexation, viewing stability in the West Bank as important for Israel's security, his administration has not directly criticised the latest measures.

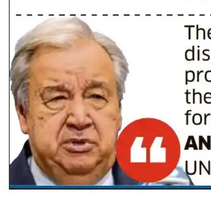
For Palestinians, the concern is less about formal declarations than the cumulative effect of administrative steps reshaping control over land. For Israel's right-wing parties, the policies advance long-held goals of consolidating sovereignty without triggering the diplomatic costs of outright annexation.

The latest Israeli action risks entrenching a one-state reality marked by unequal rights — a scenario that would make a negotiated settlement increasingly unattainable.

Reuters/Agencies

New Land Registry System in Area C

- In February 2026, Israel approved a new land registration process in the West Bank, mainly in Area C, which has been under full Israeli control since the 1993–1995 Oslo Accords.
- Land without proven ownership may be classified as Israeli state property.
- Publication of land records aims to clarify titles and resolve disputes.
- Easier for Israelis to buy land in the West Bank.
- Palestinians and critics say the policy could entrench Israeli control without formal annexation.



"Israel's moves are designed to predetermine the fate of Palestinian territory and undermine any future possibility of reclaiming land or renegotiating its status."
AMIR DAOUD, Chief settlement monitor, Palestinian Authority

The decision could lead to the dispossession of Palestinians of their property. The current trajectory on the ground is eroding the prospect for the two-State solution.
ANTONIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary-General

Area A: Palestinian Cities
Area B: Palestinian Villages
Area C: Settlement, military areas, roads, State lands

WORLD AT A GLANCE

People hold a banner and Union Jack flags as they take part in a Britain First 'March for Remigration' in Manchester, Britain,on Saturday. REUTERS

Sri Lankan parliamentarians will no longer receive pensions

▸ The Sri Lankan government has gazetted the Parliamentary Pensions (Repeal) Act after it was passed by parliament with an overwhelming majority on Tuesday, fulfilling a key campaign promise of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, PTI reports from Colombo.

In Sri Lanka, a member of parliament was entitled to a pension after serving a five-year term. On Tuesday, lawmakers passed the bill by 154 votes in the 225-member House, with only two against. The remaining legislators were not present during the vote. The gazette has been dated Friday. On February 6, the Supreme Court had determined that the Parliamentary Pensions (Repeal) Bill can be passed in Parliament with a simple majority. The main aim of the bill was to repeal the Parliamentary Pensions Law No 1 of 1977 which had established a non-contributory life time pension to persons who have ceased to be members of parliament. The move caused outrage among former parliamentarians who sought the Supreme Court intervention without success to see it being outlawed.

Russia warns S Korea over Ukraine

▸ Russia on Saturday warned South Korea against supplying arms to Ukraine under a Nato-sponsored programme as the war between the two former Soviet republics nears four years, PTI reports from Moscow.

"We would like to emphasise again that possible participation of the Republic of Korea in such supplies in any form, direct or indirect, will only postpone the prospects for a settlement of the conflict," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said. She warned that Moscow would be forced to take retaliatory measures, including asymmetric ones, if Seoul participates in the Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List programme. Nato established PURL in 2025 in response to a US decision to stop providing weapons to Ukraine for free. Under the programme, Kyiv formulates its military needs, while the EU allocates funds, purchases the weapons from the US and provides them to Ukraine at no cost.

Iranian students begin new protests in universities

Demonstrations coincide with mourning ceremonies

PARIS/DUBAI, AFP/REUTERS

A video grab from social media footage, verified by AFPTV teams, shows Iranians demonstrating at the Amirkabir University of Technology in Tehran, chanting "Long live the Shah" on Saturday. AFP

Iranian students chanted anti-government slogans and scuffled with counter-protesters on Saturday in the latest display of anger at the country's clerical leaders, who also face a US military build-up aimed at pressuring them into a nuclear deal.

The gatherings at universities, reported by both local and diaspora media outlets, followed a mass protest that was met with a government crackdown last month that left thousands dead.

The crackdown prompted US President Donald Trump to threaten military intervention, though the focus of his warnings later shifted to Iran's nuclear programme, which Western governments fear is aimed at producing a bomb.

Videos geolocated by AFP to Tehran's top engineering university showed fights breaking out in a crowd on Saturday as people shouted "bi sharaf", or "disgraceful" in Farsi.

Footage posted by Iran International, which is based outside the country, also showed a large crowd chanting anti-government slogans at Sharif University of Technology.

Iranians had reprised their protest slogans earlier this week to mark the 40th day since thousands of people were killed on January 8 and 9. They gathered again at several universities on Saturday. Students also staged protests at the start of the new semester at multiple campuses, with some demonstrations coinciding with mourning ceremonies traditionally held 40 days after those killed in last month's unrest. Protests were also reported at Beheshti University and Amir Kabir University in Tehran, as well as Mashhad University in the northeast

In the western town of Abdanan, a hotspot for protests, demonstrators chanted "Death to Khamenei" and "Death to the dictator" following the arrest of an activist teacher. A video circulating online purportedly showed marchers at Sharif University condemning Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as a "murderous leader" and calling for Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of Iran's toppled shah, to become a new monarch.

Indian-origin lawyer at centre of SC verdict against Trump

NEW YORK, PTI: At the centre of the landmark US Supreme Court verdict striking down President Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs is an Indian-origin lawyer who argued before America's highest court on the illegality of the levies.

Neal Katyal, the son of Indian immigrants and the former Acting Solicitor General of the US under President Barack Obama, argued the consequential tariff case on behalf of small businesses and won. "Victory," Katyal posted on X shortly after the Supreme Court verdict came in on Friday.

In an interview with MS Now, Katyal said, "One of the great things about the American system is what just happened today. I was able to go to court — the son of immigrants — and say on behalf of American small businesses, 'Hey, this President is acting illegally.'"

"I was able to present my case, have them ask really hard questions, it was a really intense oral argument and, at the end of it, they voted and we won," he said.

Katyal was born in 1970 in Chicago to a paediatrician mother and engineer father, both of whom immigrated from India.

Hezbollah leader among 10 killed in Israeli strikes

BEIRUT, REUTERS

At least 10 people were killed and 50 wounded in Israeli strikes in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, two security sources told Reuters, after the Israeli military said it had targeted Hezbollah sites in the Baalbek area.

The strikes on Friday were among the deadliest reported in eastern Lebanon in recent weeks and risk testing a fragile US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Shi'ite Islamist group Hezbollah, which has been strained by recurring accusations of violations.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it struck Hezbollah command centres in the Baalbek area, part of eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. In a separate statement on Saturday, it said it had "eliminated several terrorists of Hezbollah's missile array in three different command centres ... recently identified as operating to accelerate the organization's readiness and force build-up processes, while planning fire attacks towards Israel."

Hezbollah said on Saturday that eight of its fighters, including a commander, Hussein Mohammad Yaghi, were killed in Friday's strikes in the Bekaa area.

Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a US-brokered ceasefire in 2024 intended to end more than a year of cross-border exchanges of fire that culminated in Israeli strikes that weakened the Iran-aligned group.

US and Israeli officials have pressed Lebanese authorities to curb Hezbollah's arsenal, while Lebanese leaders have warned that broader Israeli strikes could further destabilize the country already battered by political and economic crises.

Separately, the Israeli military said it also struck what it described as a Hamas command centre from which militants operated in the Ain al-Hilweh area in southern Lebanon. Ain al-Hilweh is a crowded Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the overnight Israeli strikes on the Sidon area and towns in Bekaa as a "new violation" of Lebanon's sovereignty and a breach of UN obligations, urging countries backing regional stability, including the US, to press for an immediate halt to avert further escalation, the presidency said.

Director Ilker Catak accepts the Golden Bear for Best Film for "Gelbe Briefe (Yellow Letters)" at the 76th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on Friday. REUTERS

Cuban forces exit Venezuela

▸ Cuban security advisers and doctors have been leaving Venezuela as Interim President Delcy Rodriguez's government faces intense pressure from Washington to unwind Latin America's most consequential leftist alliance, according to 11 sources familiar with the matter, Reuters reports from Caracas.

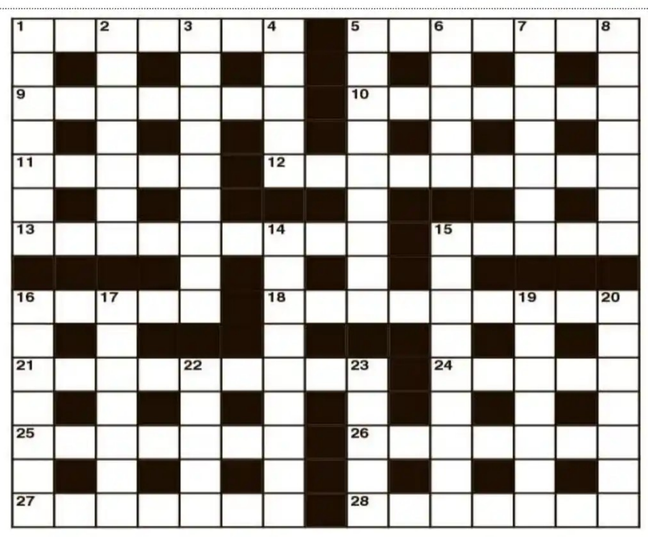
Venezuela's Interim President Delcy Rodriguez has entrusted her protection to Venezuelan bodyguards, unlike deposed president Nicolas Maduro and his predecessor, the late president Hugo Chavez, who both relied on elite Cuban forces. Thirty-two Cubans were killed in the US military attack that captured Maduro on January 3.

Hindus top educated religious group

▸ Hindus are the most highly educated religious group in the US, followed by Jews, according to a new analysis by the Pew Research Centre, which examined educational attainment across America's major faith communities, PTI reports from Houston

Washington-based think tank Pew Research Centre said the findings of the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study are one of the most comprehensive surveys of religion and public life in the US. Seven-in-ten Hindus (70%) and 65% of Jews have a bachelor's degree or more education; that compares with 35% of US adults overall.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2668 ◆



ACROSS
1 With expressionless face (7)
5 Easily persuaded (7)
9 Insult (7)
10 Influence deeply (7)
11 Hackneyed (5)
12 Catch sight of (3,4,2)
13 Allow very little margin (3,2,4)
15 Avoid definite commitment (5)
16 In pursuit of (5)
18 Placid and tolerant (4-5)
21 Puzzling question (9)
24 Arbiter (5)
25 Shorten (7)
26 Long tapering flag (7)
27 Criticism (7)
28 Feeling of rapture (7)

DOWN
1 Extreme in effect (7)
2 Distress severely (7)
3 Guardian (9)
4 Paper money (5)
5 Lacking purpose (9)
6 Insinuate (5)
7 Consecrated (7)
8 Fundamental nature (7)
14 With determination (2,7)
15 Boisterous merrymaking (4,5)
16 Antiquated (7)
17 Fit of childish rage (7)
19 US Middle West state (7)
20 Much (7)
22 Give a gentle reminder (5)
23 A wood used for flooring (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4028

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 8, Char-red 9, Mean-s-well 13, Threw 14, Train 15, The-s-am-e 16, Opening 17, (Perry) Ma-so-n 18, Hover 20, Swing 22, Tangle 23, Banned (band) 25, Starter 27, Con-test 30, R-an out 31, Sp-R-ain 32, Banks 35, F-re-ed 36, Ro-os-t 37, A-r-range 39, Sh-amble 41, The-r(oo)m 42, (at)Tract 43, Grounding 44, S-nar-led.
DOWN: 1, Charge 2, (Robert) Br-own-ing 3, Get-together 4, Be oneself 5, Ins-tan-t 6, S-wee-theart 7, E-lla (rev) 10, St-ools 11, Carm-in-e 12, Feared 19, V-enison 21, Intens-E 24, Down payment 26, Roundabout 28, Oppor-tune 29, Pa-nthe-r 30, Refuse 32, By-re-turn 33, She-at-H 34, Fri-ends 38, Neater 40, Ac-r-e.

EASY
ACROSS: 8, Rebound 9, Hexagonal 13, Admit 14, Oiled 15, Midwife 16, Cottage 17, Pagan 18, Spies 20, Range 22, Assail 23, Yellow 25, Trouble 27, Bondage 30, Dreads 31, Shiver 32, Delay 35, Foyer 36, Sauna 37, Bassoon 39, Crystal 41, Floor 42, Uncle 43, Gymnasium 44, Steeple.
DOWN: 1, Permit 2, Software 3, Intolerable 4, Verdigris 5, Farming 6, Condescend 7, Taxi 10, Saucer 11, Flypast 12, Seesaw 19, Illegal 21, Nursery 24, Corroborate 26, Understand 28, Chauffeur 29, Aviator 30, Defect 32, Disquiet 33, Yonder 34, Useless 38, Occult 40, Yo-yo.

SU DO KU X - 3835

					8			
			6					
2	9				3			1
		2				6		8
7								
	4	6		9	5	3		7
6								
	2	8		5				
		4		2				3

SOLUTION TO 3834

2	3	1	4	5	9	8	6	7
8	9	6	1	2	7	3	5	4
5	4	7	8	3	6	9	1	2
3	6	2	5	9	1	7	4	8
9	8	4	7	6	2	5	3	1
7	1	5	3	8	4	2	9	6
6	7	8	9	4	3	1	2	5
1	2	3	6	7	5	4	8	9
4	5	9	2	1	8	6	7	3

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Angelo wins Bay Beauty Plate

DELHI RESULTS

Shekhawat-ridden Angelo, from the stables of S Nawab, won the Bay Beauty Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Saturday.

1. Juvenile Plate - 1400M: Lucky Lips (Bhagat Singh) Aasif Khan 1; Burning Desire (Vishal) 2; Dubai Falcon (Sunny Kumar) 3; Miss Berg (Angad) 4; Wb: 6-1/2, 2-1/2, 2L. T: 1:26.88. TB: V.S.Parmar. Fav: Lucky Lips.

2. Bay Beauty Plate - 1600M: Angelo (Ravinder Pal Singh) Shekhawat 1; Ashwa Pathan (A.S.Peter) 2; Lodge Keeper (Akash Rajput) 3; Bhujang (Jai Parkash) 4; Wb: 10-3/4, 1/2, 3-1/2L. T: 1:37.29. TB: S.Nawab. Fav: Angelo.

3. Favourite Plate (Div-I) - 1100M: Meridia (Zulfiqar Khan) Angad 1; Ashwa Jimbabe (Vishal Shivhare) 2; Maya (Shekhawat) 3; Stylish Dancer (Rakesh) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 3/4, 1-1/2L. T: 1:07.28. TB: Zulfiqar Khan. Fav: Ashwa Jimbabe.

4. Favourite Plate (Div-II) - 1100M: Vedagarbha (Rohit Gupta) Aasif Khan 1; Magic Spell (Vishal Shivhare) 2; Telekinesis (M.B.Qureshi) 3; Beat Goes On (S.Kamble) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1-3/4, 4-1/2L. T: 1:07.45. TB: V.S.Parmar. Fav: Vedagarbha. .

5. Rosmini Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Jet Sukhoi (Ajay Kumar) Shekhawat 1; Robust (Dhanu Deora) 2; Ashwa Sultan (S. Qureshi) 3; Cool Water (Praveen Saini) 4; Wb: 1, 4-3/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1:13.18. TB: Imdad Ali Khan. Fav: Robust.

6. Rosmini Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Tripurari (Sanjay Rai) Akash Rajput 1; Nizbati Warrior (Faizan Khan) 2; Winning Legacy (Jai Parkash) 3; Shahzada (Sunny Kumar) 4; Wb: 7-1/4:, Hd, Nk. T: 1:13.04. TB: Magan Singh. Fav: Tripurari.

Bengaluru Dividends:

I race: Rs 14w; 12, 21p; Fc: Rs 80; Q: Rs 31; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 81 & 30; Ex: Rs 160 & 85.

II race: Rs 12w; 10, 17p; Fc: Rs 35; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 40 & 12; Ex: Rs 76 & 42.

III race: Rs 22w; 10, 12, 43p; Fc: Rs 38; Q: Rs 16; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 106; Tri: Rs 324 & 336; Ex: Rs 2,641 & 332.

IV race: Rs 14w; 11, 13, 12p; Fc: Rs 112; Q: Rs 72; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs; 40; Tri: Rs 98 & 25; Ex: Rs 474 & 311.

V race: Rs 62w; 16, 12, 60p; Fc: Rs 169; Q: Rs 51; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 174; Tri: Rs 2,377 & 2,037; Ex: Rs 34,609 (c/o) & 4,944.

VI race: Rs 17w; 11, 21, 16p; Fc: Rs 119; Q: Rs 62; Shp: Rs 50; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 352 & 176; Ex: Rs 1,149 & 426.

Jackpot: Rs 2,496 (84). **Runner-Up:** Rs 315 (285). **Treble:** Rs 518 (125).

Buckingham favourite for main event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

In line for a hat-trick, Buckingham, to be ridden by Antony Raj and trained by Karthik Ganapathy, will garner the maximum support in the Poonawalla Breeders' Multi - Million -- the richest event for the juveniles -- to be run over a seven furlongs at the races on Sunday.

The races start 4 pm onwards.

1. Kumar R. Dalal Trophy - 1600M: Kings Gambit 1, Zafferano 2, Opus Dei 2.

2. Mystical Trophy - 2400M: Caccini 1, Diego Garcia 2, Little John 3.

3. Dr Goolam E.Vahanvati Trophy - 1600M: Algonquin 1, Gold Bar 2, Looking Like A Wow 3.

4. **Intervalve Poonawalla Ltd Trophy - 1200M:** Organised Chaos 1, Pinnacle 2, Minari 3.

5. Poonawalla Breeders' Multi - Million - 1400M: Buckingham 1, Invictor 2, Margaretta 3.

6. Florrie And Freddy Sopher Gold Trophy - 1200M: Challenge Accepted 1, Joondalup 2, Storm Cloud 3.

7. Corfe Castle Trophy - 1200M: Social Butterfly 1, Credence 2, Market King 3.

8. Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy - 1400M: Machiavellian 1, Ministry Of Time 2, Ma Cherie 3.

Day's best: Kings Gambit. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **I Treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II Treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

Baboo, Manju walk to gold

CHANDIGARH, PTI: UP's Ram Baboo and Punjab's Manju claimed gold medals in the men's and women's full marathon walk events respectively at the Indian Open Race Walk Competition held on Saturday.

CRICKET THIRD WOMEN'S T20I

India break duck Down Under

Smriti, Jemimah & Shreyanka shine in visitor's 2-1 series win

Shreyanka Patil (right) embraces skipper Harmanpreet Kaur after India defeated Australia in the third T20I to clinch the series in Adelaide on Saturday. BCCI

ADELAIDE, PTI

An entertaining century partnership between Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues powered India to a 17-run win over Australia in the third and final Women's T20I here on Saturday, sealing their first bilateral T20I series triumph against the formidable rivals in a decade.

Mandhana smashed 82 off 55 balls, while Jemimah Rodrigues struck 59 off 46 deliveries as the two senior batters stitched a commanding 121-run stand to propel India to 176 for six after electing to bat.

India's bowlers then seized control as young spinner Shreyanka Patil (3/22) and pace spearhead Renuka Singh (1/29) ripped through the top order to leave Australia reeling at 32 for 3.

The early strikes set the tone for a dominant display as India eventually restricted hosts to 159 for 9 to seal a memorable T20I series 2-1, registering their first T20I series win in Australia since 2016.

Young left-arm spinner Shree Charani (3/32) underlined her credentials, claiming three crucial wickets to play a pivotal role in cementing India's historic victory.

After electing to bat, India endured a slightly tricky start as Shafali Verma (7) departed early.

Mandhana and World Cup hero Rodrigues then took charge of the innings. The duo cut loose in the sixth over bowled by left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux, collecting three boundaries in a 14-run burst that firmly put India back on track.

At the end of the Powerplay, India were 54 for 1.

Both Mandhana and Jemimah kept the scoreboard ticking, with the former in a particularly punishing mood. She took on leg-spinner Georgia Wareham in the ninth over -- Wareham's first -- executing a powerful sweep that bisected deep square leg and deep midwicket to perfection.

India's half-century came up in just 35 balls.

Mandhana brought up her half-century in style, reaching the milestone off 38 balls with a six off pacer Darcie Brown. She swung across the line and connected sweetly on the second ball of the 12th over, sending it sailing over the ropes.

It was her 33rd fifty in international cricket, achieved in her 160th appearance.

Harman all praise

The century stand for the second wicket came up in just 66 balls, laying a strong platform for a late surge and was praised by the Indian captain.

"I think every partnership was very important for us. That's what we discussed in the team meetings, that we have to be there," Harmanpreet said after the match. "We have to keep taking the responsibility, They both played a very big role. And really happy the way Smriti was batting, and good to see that Jami also contributed at the right time."

However, Mandhana fell in the 17th over, dismissed by Sutherland as she holed out to deep midwicket. Ashleigh Gardner completed a well-judged running catch to bring the flourishing 121-run partnership to an end.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur promoted Richa Ghosh to No. 4, and the move paid dividends, as the keeper-batter hit a brisk cameo of 18 off just seven balls.

India then had Australia under immediate pressure as openers Georgia Voll (10) and Beth Mooney (6) -- were dismissed early. Off-spinner Shreyanka struck in the second over to remove Voll, while veteran pacer Renuka accounted for Mooney in the third.

Voll miscued a big top edge that ballooned into the air, and Renuka ran back from short fine leg to complete a well-judged catch.

Brief scores: India: 176/6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 82, Jemimah Rodrigues 59; Annabel Sutherland 2-34) bt Australia: 159/9 in 20 overs (Phoebe Litchfield 26, Ashleigh Gardner 57; Shreyanka Patil 3-22, Arundhati Reddy 2-35, Shree Charani 3-32). **Result:** India won by 17 runs. **Series:** India seal three-match series 2-1. **PoM:** Smriti Mandhana.

Adani Group working to restart Formula 1 in India

Sports minister recently held talks with track officials

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Adani Group is working on strategies to restart the Formula 1 motor sport at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, Karan Adani, the managing director of Adani Cement said on Saturday.

According to official sources, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya recently visited the circuit and held talks with officials from Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority.

"I'm very excited... obviously the Buddh circuit comes (as) part of the deal. I'm very personally engaged in terms of bringing Formula 1 back into India. I think India has a lot of potential. There's a lot of following in Formula 1 from India," said Adani, who is also the managing director of Adani Ports & SEZ, while speaking at the 70th Foundation Day of All India Management Association (AIMA) in the national capital.

The Adani Group is in the fray to buy the troubled Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) -- the flagship company of the Jaypee Group.

In November 2025, the infrastructure-to-energy group won majority lenders' vote for takeover of debt-laden Jaiprakash Associates as its Rs 14,535-crore acquisition proposal included a higher upfront payment than rival bidders.

Adani further said he has been following the sport since 2000 and believes India can set a benchmark for global events like Formula 1.

"Reputation of India and Indians has improved very, very significantly... I do believe that India can really showcase Formula 1... and can be a benchmark for a global event," he said.

Adani said the exposure to such sports in India is limited and people have to go to other countries like Abu Dhabi or Singapore to experience the sport.

Re-starting Formula 1 will also provide an opportunity to showcase not just the infrastructure but the hospitality and the heritage of country, he said.

The F1 race was last held in 2011, 2012, 2013 at the BIC.

Gautham, Nagendra score centuries in BEL SC win

BENGALURU, DHNS

Blistering unbeaten hundreds from Gautham R Reddy (128 n.o.) and Nagendra Babu M (107 n.o.) helped BEL Sports Club hammer SWR Rail Club, Bangalore by 255 runs in their KSCA Group II, Division II league cum knockout tournament here.

Brief scores: BEL SC: 323/1 in 20 overs (Nagendra Babu M 107 n.o., Shivu M 55, Gautham R Reddy 128 n.o.) bt SWR Rail Club, Bangalore: 68/9 in 14 overs (M Arun 3-13, Raghunandan H 2-7, Barath C 3-9).

BBMP: 157/5 in 20 overs (Tahir Hussain 43, S Shylesh 46 n.o.; Arya J Gowda 2-25, Riyaz Pasha 3-29) bt Secretariat CC: 128 all out in 19.1 overs (Arya J Gowda 30; S Shylesh 3-18, Parveez Ali Khan S 2-15, Subrahmanya Nagaraj Padaki 2-19).

Bosch SC, Naganathapura: 146/4 in 20 overs (Nischal Dayanand 26, Pankaj K Gowda 43, Raj Singh Chauhan 29; Rajesh SB 2-18) lt to Advocate Association CC: 149/5 in 18.4 overs (Shreyas Kumar K 64; K Karthik 2-19).

SWR Central Workshop (Mysore): 130/7 in 20 overs (Shashank HC 35, Sibtain Ali 25; Abhin SP 2-33, OG Lokya Naik 2-23, Karan U 2-26) lt to LIC Sports Club: 132/2 in 14.4 overs (Neeraj 69, Karan U 36 n.o.).

VISL CC, Bhadravathi: 140/7 in 20 overs (Gagan D 33, Tanmay M 34, Shreyank Sagar 44; Alok Kumar R 2-19, KK Kantesh 2-30, Ananthavishnu MH 2-23) bt BEML SC, KGF: 125/9 in 20 overs (Yogi 2-29, Gagan D 4-27, Shreyank Sagar 2-26).

Bangalore Telephones: 259/3 in 20 overs (Aleem 54, S Praveen 52, Syed Zeeshan Ahmed 63 n.o., Rakshith K 46) bt GTR: 150 all out in 19.3 overs (Sharad Chandrabhan Yadav 38; G Murugan 2-23, Rakshith K 3-25).

Commercial Tax CC: 150/5 in 20 overs (Vijay Kumar K 45 n.o., Arieska 45; Muniraju K 2-18) bt BEML Rail Coach: 143/8 in 20 overs (Vineeth Manjunath 61, Suraj VL 31; Aries KA 2-20, Dheeraj Naik 2-24).

L&T Construction Equipments: 146/7 in 20 overs (Venkatesh P 29; Sampath Kumar M 3-14) bt BWSSB Employees Association: 128 all out in 19.5 overs (M Renuka Prasad 42, Preetham ML 39, Darshan S 26; Nikhil Vedanth RV 3-19, Rajamahammad 3-17).

LOCAL CRICKET

Infosys CC: 154/9 in 20 overs (Mahesh K 39, Pradyumna Srivatsa 33, Praveen 34; Sachin 3-31, Rahul Bellad 3-21, Mahaboob Pasha 2-36) bt Hutti Gold Mines Cricket Club: 113 all out in 18.3 overs (Prabhu Sasalatti 62, Syed Samdani 25, Dheeraj S Urs 5-16, Ajau Bhide 2-3, Vineeth B 2-11).

UBI: 106/7 in 20 overs (Vinu Prasad 25 n.o.; MK Hemesh 3-7, Satish Kumar Pandey 2-16) lt to Indian Air Force, Yelahanka: 110/6 in 14.4 overs (Romen Gogoi 40; Abhishek K Shankara 2-36, Vinu Prasad 2-25).

CIL SC: 175/6 in 20 overs (Aryan BV 126; Bharath N 2-20) bt South Railway Institute, Mysore: 136 all out in 19.1 overs (Yashwanth J 25; Suhas BS 59, Kapil 3-11, Keerthan J R 2-33, Sanath S Nair 3-25).

Deccan Herald & Prajavani SC: 92/6 in 17.2 overs (Vikram 60; Ambresh K 2-22, Aadarsh Prajwal S 2-22) lt to Bhagirathi Group: 104/1 in 9.3 overs (Aadarsh Prajwal 80 n.o.)

ADE Sports Club: 173/6 in 20 overs (Pratham R 71, Shabahat Hussain 28; Saurabh Yadav B 2-24, Ravi Kumar R 2-29) bt BDSA, South Western Railways, Bangalore : 110/7 in 20 overs (Varun K 30, Saurabh Yadav B 42 n.o.; Pravesh KM 2-12, Pratham R 3-10).

EPF S&RC: 127/8 in 20 overs (Kotikalapudi Venkata Rao 48 n.o., Somashekara Murthy KS 2-15) lt to Karnataka Police CC: 128/6 in 17.1 overs (Rakesh NK 40, Dadapeer B 35 n.o., Kotikalapudi Venkata Rao 2-33, Anil Kumar TR 3-26)

LRDE SC: 116/4 in 20 overs (Karan Raghavendra 53 n.o., Vishwa H 27) lt to IAF, Jalahalli: 121/2 in 10.2 overs (Rushi B Shetty 83).

Karnataka Govt Secretariat Club: 132/8 in 20 overs (P Yathisha 38, Krishna KV 27 n.o.; Murali HM 3-13) bt BHEL EDN SC: 130 all out in 20 overs (Mahesh Acharya 35; Muralidhara J 2-20, P Yathisha 2-21, Santhosh Kumar MR 2-23).

Railway Institute, Krishnarajapuram: 173/3 in 20 overs (Shashidhar HS 101, Likith Gowda M 61 n.o.; Murali N 2-29) bt Bangalore Dairy Sports Club : 112 all out in 19.3 overs (Murali N 43; Sitaram Meena 2-4, Akhil UK 4-7, Somala Ranjith Kumar 3-26).

Continental Automotive: 188/4 in 20 overs (Thejas L 41, Rishab Krish 64, Karthik J 53, R Bhanu Prakash 2-46) bt ITI SC: 114 all out in 16 overs (Srinivasa Murthy T 38, Thejas L 3-7, Rishab Krish 2-22, Karthik J 3-33).

BEMRC Cricket: 105/7 in 20 overs (Nikhil Gowda DP 3-21, Shane Ryan 2-17, Naveen Kumar M 2-11) lt to Triton Sports Club, Mysore: 109/3 in 12.1 overs (Srithan V 42, Ishaan S 37).

BCCI support for blind cricket

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BCCI on Saturday announced a structured support framework for the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), including international exposure, home series assistance and venue access, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive growth in the sport.

India's visually impaired cricketers have achieved remarkable success on the global stage over the past decade, winning multiple men's World Cup titles along with a historic inaugural women's World Cup.

"The achievements of India's visually impaired cricketers are a source of immense pride for the cricketing fraternity," BCCI President Mithun Manhas said in a release.

"Through this support framework, the BCCI aims to strengthen opportunities, infrastructure and exposure for these athletes. Inclusive growth remains central."

Norway's Klaebo clinches record double hat-trick of golds

TESERO, (ITALY), AFP: Norwegian cross-country skier Johannes Klaebo won his sixth gold medal of the Milan-Cortina Games on Saturday, extending his own all-time record for Winter Olympics titles to 11.

By taking the 50 kilometre mass start title, 29-year-old Klaebo also became the first athlete in history to win all six cross-country skiing races at one Games. He led a Norwegian sweep of the medals ahead of Martin Nyenget and Emil Iversen.

Klaebo joins two other athletes to have won all of their events at a single Winter Olympics -- US speed skater Eric Heiden, who took five golds at the 1980 Lake Placid Games, and Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, who won four in Salt Lake City in 2002.

The only athlete in Winter or Summer Games history with more Olympic titles than Klaebo is American swimmer Michael Phelps (23 golds).

Johannes Klaebo

Klaebo won three golds at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games, and another two in Beijing in 2022.

Emily Harrop and Thibault Anselmet combined to win gold for France in the mixed relay event of Olympic ski mountaineering in Bormio on Saturday.

Harrop and Anselmet clocked a winning time of 26min 57.44sec in the relay, finishing 11.86sec ahead of the Swiss duo of Marianne Fatton and Jon Kistler.

K'taka endure tough opening day despite Dhruv's century

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka collapsed to a modest 240 all out in 78.5 overs following Dhruv Prabhakar's battling century on the opening day of their Col CK Nayudu quarterfinal against hosts Mumbai at the Sachin Tendulkar Gymkhana in Kandivali on Saturday.

In response, Mumbai ended the day at 12/0 in seven overs.

Karnataka, who lost Prakhar Chaturvedi (0) in the first over after opting to bat, never really recovered and kept losing wickets at regular intervals. However, a resolute Dhruv (107, 215b, 15x4) showed patience in his rescue act and carried Karnataka to a modest total.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 240 all out in 78.5 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 107, Harshil Dharmani 27; Suryansh Shedge 2-35, Zaid Patankar 2-50, Himanshu Singh 2-57, Atharva Bhosale 3-60) vs Mumbai: 12/0 in 7 overs.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL No.2 Division, Oddarahatti Camp,
Tq: Gangavathi, Dist: Koppal

No.EE/KNNL/No.2CDOdd/TS/AE-4/2025-26/1577 Date: 20-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through Kpp-procurement system)

On behalf of the Managing Director KNNL Bangalore the Executive Engineer No.2 Division Odderahatti camp the undersigned invites in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in percentage basis tenders for Eligible KPWD Civil contractors. The tender is invited in Two Cover System for the Work Indent No: KNNL/2025-26/RB/WORK_INDENT3970. Related to this additional details etc are available in above website. Pre bid meeting will be held on dtd: **25-02-2026** @ 11.00 AM at EE KNNL No 2 canal Division Odderahatti Camp. The last date for submission of tender Document upto dtd: **09-03-2026** upto 04.30 PM. The details can be viewed from web site https://KPPP. Karnataka.gov.in) & Date of Opening of Technical Bid on dtd: **11-03-2026** at 10.30 AM & Financial Bid on dtd: **13-03-2026** at 10:30 AM or after obtaining approval to technical bid. The Officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to postponement or reject any all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. For more information visit to website given above or contact at office in all working days during office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
KNNL No.2 Canal Division Odderahatti
Tq: Gangavathi Dist: Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/702/KSMCA/2025-26

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone : 08539-220054, E-mail: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No. : E.E./M.I.D./Koppal/Corrigendum/2025-26/5282 Date : 17-02-2026

CORRIGENDUM
(E-Procurement Portal Through only)

Ref : - This office tender notification No : 5171, Dated : 13-02-2026

Adverting to the above cited reference, The Work 02 in respect of the Tender Conditions / Documents may please be read as follows.

As Notified Earlier : Opening Date for Submission of Tender Documents : 17-02-2026. Last Date for Submission of Completed Tender Documents : 27-02-2026 upto 17.30 Hours. Date of Opening of Technical Bid Document : 02-03-2026, 11.00 Hours. Date of Opening of Financial Bid Document : 04-03-2026, 11.00 Hours.

Now To be Read as : Opening Date for Submission of Tender Documents : 23-02-2026. Last Date for Submission of Completed Tender Documents : 04-03-2026 upto 17.30 Hours. Date of Opening of Technical Bid Document : 06-03-2026, 11.00 Hours. Date of Opening of Financial Bid Document : 09-03-2026, 11.00 Hours.

All other Terms and Conditions of the Original Tender notification remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division, Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/701/Manipal/2025-26

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.02, VC Division,
Maddur. E-mail : vcdnmaddur@gmail.com

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-09/2025-26
Dated : 18.02.2026
Two cover System - Through e-procurement

This office's tender Notification No.09/2025-26, Dated: 18.02.2026 for a work amount Rs. 498.00 lakhs. Item wise rate tender Is Invited from eligible KPWD Class-II & Above contractors. Tender queries and clarification as per e-portal. E.M.D should be paid through E-payment. Last date of submission of tenders through online : As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal. For additional Information log on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd, No.02, VC Division, Maddur.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆವಿಎನ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/814/2025–26

ಆದಿಕವಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ರಾಯಚೂರು
Adikavi Shri Maharshi Valmiki University, Raichur
Krishna Tunga Campus, Mantralaya Road (N.H. 167), Yergera -584133
Website:https://raichuruniversity.ac.in

ಸಂ: ಆಶ್ರೀಮವಾವಿರಾ/ಆಡಳಿತ/2025–26/ನೇಮಕಾತಿ201ಕಅಜಾ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.02.2026

201 ಬೋಧಕೇತರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣದ ಕರಡು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಆದೇಶ 2013 ರನ್ವಯ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ವೃಂದ (371–ಜೆ) ಮತ್ತು ಉಳಿಕೆ ಮೂಲ ವೃಂದಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರದ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಇಡಿ 128 ಯುಜಿವಿ 2023 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿ: 18.06.2023 ರಂತೆ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ 201 ಬೋಧಕೇತರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕರಡು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು www.raichuruniversity.ac.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೊಂಡ 15 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ(ಅನುಬಂಧ–2)ಅಂಚೆ ಅಥವಾ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ (asmvurboa2024@gmail.com) ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಈ ಕುರಿತಾಗಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ www.raichuruniversity.ac.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು,
ಆದಿಕವಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ,
ರಾಯಚೂರು

DIP/RCR/717/KSMC&A/720/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1/Tender/2025-26/ **342** Date: 20-2-2026

KPP -Procurement Tender Details Call-2

1) Name of Works: As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work: As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 4) Amount put to tender : As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD: As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-3 Only: **26-02-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours,** 7) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders KW-3 Only: **02-03-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 8) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-3 Only: **04-03-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 9) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-3 Only: **06-03-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted: Executive Engineer, MI &GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax:08482 232080, 11) Website details: KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/344/KSMC&A/2025-26

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE

No: CMC/ Health Section/Municipal Fund/112-Man power/2025-26 Dated: 10.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

2025-26 Municipal Fund tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Class-1 Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in 1) Pre-Bid Meeting 25.02.2026 at 12:00 PM 2) Tender Last Date: 12.03.2026 TIME: 05:00 PM. 3) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 13.03.2026 TIME: 5.30PM. 4) Opening for Financial Bid will be on Date: 16.03.2026 TIME: 10:30 AM OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: CMC HOSAPETE.(1) INDENT No.DMA/2025-26/SE7230 Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 300.00 Lakh, EMD Rs. 4,50,000.00 any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

Assistant Executive Environmental Engineer, CMC Hosapete
Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/545

Surya's men take on formidable South Africa in their Super 8s opener

India need to bring THEIR A GAME

India's captain Suryakumar Yadav (right) with team-mates Ishan Kishan (centre) and Rinku Singh during a training session, ahead of their match against South Africa in Ahmedabad on Saturday. PTI

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

"Look, I don't think we've played our perfect game yet. But we've had contributions from most of the players now, barring Abhishek (Sharma). I think we are moving in the right direction. So it's a good time to peak. And like I said, we haven't played our best game yet, but this is the time to bring it to the table," said India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate after India eased past the Netherlands in their final Group A game on Wednesday.

Doeschate, known for his point-blank assessments, was spot on. Yes, India — faced with challenging pitches, well-prepared opposition bowlers and a shocking dip in the form of their primary gun-slinger Abhishek — have not been at their ruthless best in the ICC T20 World Cup so far. But, like champion sides always do, they've found a way to solve the problem in the first phase and they've chugged along through smart play.

Now comes the all-important Super Eights phase, where there is little room for improvement and they have to put their best foot forward. First up on Sunday at the Narendra Modi Stadium here is South Africa, a team they beat in a nerve-wracking final in June 2024 at Barbados and have been sharing an intense rivalry across formats over the last decade.

A couple of issues they'll be looking to tackle, which a charged-up South Africa — the reigning World Test Championship title holders — will be keen to exploit, are: Abhishek all at sea in his maiden World Cup and batters struggling to force the pace in the middle overs.

When a batter gets out for a duck in three consecutive innings, it's hard to pinpoint the exact flaw. Is he out of sorts? Is he lacking confidence? Is impatience costing him dear? Is the occasion of an event as big as the World Cup playing on his mind? Questions are plenty.

Till the start of the World Cup, Abhishek was the bonafide star of this fire-packed batting line-up, but such is the unforgiving nature of cricket in the country, he's now the man under intense scrutiny. Sunday is a perfect stage for the 25-year-old southpaw to silence all that noise and regain his destructive powers. He could help his cause by getting his eye in before deciding to pull the trigger.

India will also have to find a way to correct the middle-overs slump. Opposition spinners have tied the likes of Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav down, leaving finishers like Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube to do the majority of the heavy lifting at the death.

South Africa, who locked horns with India in a T20I series last December which they lost 1-3, have played all but one of their four league games at this stadium. In a way, they may have a better grip of the conditions, which they'll be looking to use to their advantage. Historically, they've been blessed with a good pace attack, and it's no different now with the trio of Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen — who has become a thorn in the flesh for India with his feisty displays — in good form.

South Africa also bat deep, which means the Indian bowlers will have no respite. Openers Aiden Markram and Quinton de Kock are extremely destructive and can take the game away from the opposition on their day, while the likes of Dewald Brevis, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs and Jansen have the ability to play match-winning knocks.

Where South Africa could have a problem is in the spin department, which has worried the left-hand-loaded Indian line-up. Keshav Maharaj is the only frontline option, but Indian southpaws should be able to deal with him better because he's a left-arm orthodox. So the onus is on part-timers Markram and Stubbs to step up. That's where India may have an advantage, given their superior firepower in that department.

Squads: India: Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel (vice-capt), Abhishek Sharma, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, Tilak Varma, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Varun Chakravarthy.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (capt), Dewald Brevis, Quinton de Kock, David Miller, Ryan Rickelton, Jason Smith, Tristan Stubbs, Corbin Bosch, Marco Jansen, George Linde, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada.

India vs South Africa in T20Is

	Mats	Ind	SA	NR
Overall	35	21	13	1
In India	16	8	7	1
In T20 World Cups	7	5	2	0

South Africa's record in India

Won	Lost	NR	Win%
13	10	1	54.2

India's record at the Narendra Modi Stadium

Won	Lost	Win%
7	2	77.8

RESULTS POST T20 WC IN 2024

India		South Africa
45	Mats	36
37	Won	16
6	Lost	20
2	No Res	0
82.2%	Win%	44.4%
9.79	SR*	8.89
7.98	ER*	9.16

*Scoring rate *Economy rate

CAPTAINCY RECORD

	M	W	L	No Res	Win %
Suryakumar Yadav	47	38	7	2	80.9
Aiden Markram	42	21	21	-	50.0

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

'I worry for those who are worried about Abhishek'

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

From being the darling of a cricket-mad country over the last 20 months, thanks to his electrifying batting, to becoming the most scrutinised man for his three successive ducks, life has literally turned upside down for young Indian opener Abhishek Sharma this T20 World Cup.

Irrespective of who comes for the pre or post-match media activity, a question on the southpaw's unforgettable run is a must. So it wasn't surprising skipper Suryakumar Yadav was asked about the 25-year-old on the eve of their opening Super Eight game versus South Africa. Suryakumar, who went through a really long lean run before finding form in the nick of time in the preceding five-match T20I series against New Zealand, flat-batted the expected query on Abhishek, backing the opener to come good in the upcoming matches. "About Abhishek's form, I worry for the people who are worried about Abhishek's form," a smiling Suryakumar said.

"I worry about them. I think about those teams who are going to play against him; that he has not yet scored a run. When he scores a run, you have seen what happens. It (poor run of scores) happens, it's a team sport. If it (returning to form) happens, then it's fine, if it doesn't, then we are there to cover. Last year he covered for us, now we will cover for him."

Accustomed largely to playing on shirtfronts at home, India have encountered challenging pitches so far. When asked if the team hoped for batting tracks in the Super Eights, Suryakumar said his team is adept at handling various challenges.

"I think we are ready to adapt to any sort of wickets. If you see from the first game, we have been playing on different kinds of wickets. When we started our campaign from Wankhede till the last league game which we played, I think the wickets were not too challenging but a little tricky. But then, at the end of the day we played enough cricket to understand what kind of batting we need to do post Power Play and then take on and finish the game." Because of the challenging pitches, the Indians have also had to retune their strategy.

Abhishek Sharma. PTI

Instead of going bang-bang from the onset, which was their template coming into the World Cup, they've embraced a lot more pragmatism to tackle the conditions.

When asked why the middle-order isn't able to play the high-octane cricket, Suryakumar said nothing is set in stone and they have recalibrated their goals based on teams and conditions. "We are trying to explode from the start. Sometimes, we can get into a situation where we lose two or three wickets quickly."

SA bank on familiarity of India

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

When India take on South Africa in their opening Super Eights game at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday, it will be a battle between two teams who would be familiar with each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Late last year, South Africa visited India for a full-fledged bilateral series — two Tests, three ODIs and five T20Is. While the World Test Championship title holders won the red-ball rubber 2-0, India triumphed in white-ball affairs, winning ODIs 2-1 and the T20Is 3-1.

South Africa opener Quinton de Kock, who returned from international retirement only for limited-overs just before the series against Pakistan, reckoned familiarity of teams and conditions is a 'double-edged sword' and the one who handles pressure better on the day will emerge victorious.

Quinton de Kock

"I think what's going to make for quite a good game tomorrow is we've played against each other quite a bit over the last two months. And to be honest, the teams haven't really changed much. So I think it's more when you're out there on the pressure side, who deals with the pressure better and wins the small moments in the game," said de Kock at the pre-match press conference on Saturday.

"And not even just playing against India. I think in the IPL, we're always playing against each other a lot. Everyone knows each other, how everyone plays, how everybody thinks. So I think it's just a matter of being out there who falls under the pressure first." Ahmedabad has pretty much been the base for South Africa this T20 World Cup. They played all but one of their group games here and will also compete in two of the three Super Eight games at the same venue.

R Sridhar

'Sri Lanka better prepared for England'

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), PTI: Fielding coach R Sridhar on Saturday said Sri Lanka have moved on from their home 0-3 drubbing by England in the run-up to the T20 World Cup, and believed that his side is now better equipped to react to different situations in Sunday's Super Eights match against the Three Lions here.

England whitewashed Sri Lanka in a three-match T20I series just seven days before the start of the ongoing T20 World Cup, but Sridhar did not count that as a deterrent in producing a good outing against Harry Brook's side.

"At this stage of this tournament, it's a lot different from what a bilateral series is. I mean, bilateral series and private leagues, there's no pressure as much as it would be in a World Cup Super-8 game. And it is for all teams. It is for all teams, whether it is England, whether it is Sri Lanka, whether it is India or Pakistan, whoever it is, when you're playing a super 8 game, you will not play with the same freedom as you would do in a bilateral or a private league," Sridhar said in the pre-match press conference.

"So, the pressure will be same for both teams. The teams which do the things correctly under pressure, the teams which make lesser mistakes is the team that is likely to go through," he added.

Despite the heavy reversal, the former India fielding coach said there were a lot of positive takeaways from the series against England.

Rain washes out New Zealand vs Pakistan Super 8s fixture

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), PTI : New Zealand and Pakistan shared a point after incessant rain forced the abandonment of the opening T20 World Cup Group 2 Super Eights match here on Saturday.

Amid a slight drizzle, Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat first.

But the steady droplets soon transformed into relentless pouring, forcing the officials to call off the match without a ball being bowled.

Before the skies opened up, Pakistan made one change to their eleven, bringing in Fakhar Zaman in place of Khawaja Nafay.

New Zealand made three changes with skipper Mitchell Santner back after missing the last match against Canada due to a stomach issue and Lockie Ferguson and Ish Sodhi also found a place in the XI. But all those calculations and combinations will have to wait for another day, as Pakistan will now face England here on February 24.

New Zealand will make a light travel to Colombo to face home side Sri Lanka on February 25.

The washout has also placed both the Kiwis and Pakistan in a relatively tighter place ahead of their remaining two Super Eights matches. A similar result in any of the following matches, a possibility considering Sri Lanka's weather pattern, or a defeat can put their semifinal ambitions in serious jeopardy.

Groundsmen cover the field as rain plays spoilsport during the Super 8s fixture between Pakistan and New Zealand in Colombo on Saturday. AP/PTI

England eye Sri Lanka scalp

Co-hosts will bank on home support in crucial Super 8s fixture

PALLEKELE, PTI

A battle for spin-bowling supremacy is on the cards as England look to draw inspiration from their recent series whitewash of Sri Lanka when the two sides clash in a Super Eight match of the T20 World Cup here on Saturday.

England had beaten Sri Lanka 3-0 in their T20I series here earlier this month and they would be happy to return to the island nation for the Super Eight match, having played all their group games in India.

The two-time champions are, however, yet to convince at this T20 World Cup, with three nervy victories against associate nations and a loss at the hands of former champions West Indies. Co-hosts Sri Lanka began with wins over Ireland and Oman, and were at their best against Australia, whom they beat by eights wickets while chasing 182 here. The Lankans, however, lost their momentum, losing to giant-killers Zimbabwe in their last group match in Colombo on Thursday.

England's spinner Adil Rashid, who has taken six wickets from four matches in the T20 World Cup so far, will be a key factor in the game against Sri Lanka. AFP

LIVE 3:00 PM

It will a fresh start for both the sides with Sri Lanka looking to cash in on the home advantage while England would be looking to pick up steam in the tournament at a place where they had done well less than a month back.

For Sri Lanka, Pathum Nissanka would be looking to continue his top form at the venue where he had hit 100 not out in the win against Australia. He is among the three centurions in this T20 World Cup and is at the second spot among highest run-getters so far. Kusal Mendis has also been in good touch with three half-centuries in four matches and he would be one of the key Sri Lankan batters the England bowlers would want to target.

England batters, meanwhile, have been struggling so far with Jacob Bethell the best among them with 143 runs from four matches with one half century. The form of captain Harry Brook and senior player Jos Buttler will be crucial for England's success.

In the bowling department, off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana has been the best Sri Lankan bowler with six wickets from four matches. Sri Lanka were dealt a blow after pacer Matheesha Pathirana was ruled out of the rest of the tournament on the eve of Thursday's defeat to Zimbabwe. Dilshan Madushanka, who replaced Pathirana in the squad, conceded just 20 runs from his three overs against Zimbabwe.

Dushmantha Chameera is set to return to the side after being rested for the final group game.

England would be looking up to the spin duo of Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson, as well on Jofra Archer.

Veteran Rashid, one of the best leg-spinners in the world currently, has taken six wickets from four matches -- the same as Archer -- and he could be the England trump card once again on Sunday.

Dawson has been reasonably economical till now while Rashid had one outstanding game against West Indies (2 for 16 in four overs) but was otherwise expensive, taking a combined 4 for 121 in 11 overs against Associate opposition.

Conditions should also favour England's part-time options with the likes of Will Jacks and Bethell in the side. Both played vital roles with the ball in England's 3-0 series win earlier this month on a slow, used surface here.

The match could also be disrupted as there is prediction of rain in the afternoon.

Hubballi stadium's Pavilion Block to be named after Joshi

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Pavilion Block at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium in Hubballi will be named after former left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) announced on Saturday evening.

The formal ceremony will take place during the Ranji Trophy final between Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir on February 24 during the lunch break in the presence of KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad, Union Minister Prahlad Joshi, former Karnataka CM Jagadish Shettar and district in-charge minister Santosh Lad. "This decision has been taken as a mark of deep respect and appreciation for Sunil Joshi's remarkable cricketing journey and his enduring association with cricket in North Karnataka. Hailing from Gadag district, Sunil Joshi played a significant part of his formative cricket in Hubballi, and the naming of the Pavilion Block in his honour stands as a fitting and lasting tribute to one of Karnataka's most distinguished cricketing ambassadors," the KSCA stated in a release.

One of the finest spinners to have come from Karnataka, Joshi represented India in 15 Tests and 69 ODIs.

I want us to go hell for leather: Skipper Brook

KANDY (SRI LANKA), AFP

England can adapt to whatever the weather throws at them, captain Harry Brook said Saturday as rain threatens to disrupt their opening Super Eights match against Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup.

Unseasonal rain in Sri Lanka over the past few days means Sunday's crucial match in Kandy could be reduced to as few as five overs per side.

"I think you just have to prepare as if it is a T20," Brook told reporters. "I think you can sometimes go down a bit of a rabbit hole thinking that you're going to play a five-over game and then it ends up being a T20 and you kind of play it slightly differently.

Harry Brook

"So I think we've just got to prepare as if it is a T20 game and hope that the rain stays away. And then if it doesn't, then we've got to adapt."

Brook indicated that a five-over sprint could mean a change in the batting order as they go "hell for leather" in search of fast runs.

"There's going to be some changes so we're not too predictable," Brook said.

"I want us to go hell for leather in 20 overs anyway, go out there and really take it to the opposition with the bat."

The inclement weather and a pitch that has been sweating under covers mean England will delay naming their side until Sunday's toss, breaking with their tradition of announcing their eleven 24 hours in advance.

Despite a stuttering group campaign, Brook's side are returning to the venue where they swept a T20 series against Sri Lanka 3-0 this month on the eve of the T20 World Cup.

"We can take a lot of confidence having played here and experienced this surface and this ground," said Brook.

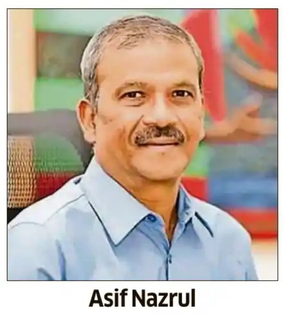
'Nazrul told such blatant lies'

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin has hit out at former sports adviser Asif Nazrul, alleging that he misrepresented facts and shifted his position regarding the national team's participation in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Salahuddin added that it was extremely difficult for the players to come to terms with their exclusion from the tournament, claiming that two members of the squad were left mentally shattered.

Nazrul, who served under



Asif Nazrul

Bangladesh's former interim leader Muhammad Yunus, had initially maintained that the decision not to travel to India due to security concerns was taken by the government.

However, shortly before stepping down from his post, he stated that the call had been made by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the players.

"He told such blatant lies," Salahuddin told reporters. "I am a teacher myself, and teachers generally lie a bit less. That he would say such lies so openly - I honestly can't even imagine it. How will I even show my face in front of the boys? He took such a U-turn."

Salahuddin suggested the players had no role in the decision-making process.

RIGHT TO ASK Performance of minnows showed more financial assistance & game time vs biggies can uplift their standards

Associates make a case for MORE OPPORTUNITIES

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Netherlands almost pulled off a heist against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup opener on February 7 in Colombo. On the same day, in Mumbai, the United States of America gave a real scare to India by reducing them to 67/6 before skipper Suryakumar Yadav rescued them. The next day, at the same venue, Nepal pushed England to the limit and fell short by just one big hit from scripting the biggest shock of the tournament.

While an upset from an Associate nation didn't materialise, Namibia, Netherlands, Nepal, World Cup debutants Italy gave a good account of themselves against traditional powerhouses and earned the right to demand more assistance from the International Cricket Council -- both financial aid and an increase in the number of opportunities to play the Full Members. So what do associate countries get from ICC's net surplus earnings every year? Of the USD 600 million that the world body makes every year during the 2024-2026 cycle, the majority of which comes from selling global broadcast rights of its events, only 11.2 per cent or approximately USD 67.5 million (Rs 612 crore approx) is distributed among 98 Associate Members -- nations other than 12 Full Members or Test playing countries. This comes to roughly Rs 6.24 per nation every year. To put that into perspective, it's less than half the amount (Rs 14.2 crore) Chennai Super Kings paid each to buy two uncapped Indian players Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma.

This is not to criticise the lop-sided riches of Indian cricket; rather an attempt to highlight the gulf between a Full Member and an Associate nation. Even the gap in earnings between the lowest earning Afghanistan (USD 16.82 million) and an Associate nation is huge. But, by sheer dint of passion and perseverance, Associate nations have proved they could be more competitive with a little more support from the ICC which can revisit its revenue distribution formula that ensures more funds for Associate nations without massively reducing Full Members' share.

The revenue is currently distributed based on cricket history, performance, commercial contribution and Full Member Status. These four parameters naturally tilt weightage towards the so-called Big Three (India, England, Australia) who garner an annual combined share of nearly 52 per cent of which India alone take home more than 70 per cent. This is not to say India -- who have an 85.3 per cent commercial weightage according to ICC's revenue sharing model -- don't deserve the Rs 2000 crore share. But a more equitable distribution framework should be worked out that compensates Associates.

On one hand, we have a country (Namibia) not having a single floodlit facility in the entire country while even the Karnataka State Cricket Association-conducted league cricket T20 final is played under lights. The difference is stark, and reality harsh.

"Financial models are not sustainable for us. ICC's commercial model is counterproductive for us," Rashid Shah, a Netherlands board member, told PTI. "We get a fraction of the funds from there. We have to generate our own models to get the finances and get the cricket development going."

Apart from financial assistance, another major grievance by the Associates has been the lack of game-time against Full Members apart from World Cups. Unlike in Asia, where the Asia Cup provides an opportunity to minnows like Nepal, Oman and UAE to face biggies from the continent, the European or African nations rarely get a chance to square off against stronger teams. Only when you test yourselves against the best in the world, will you get a sense of the standard at the highest level and understand what one needs to do to raise the bar.

Several players from the Associates used the ongoing T20 World Cup as a platform to make their legitimate demand for more opportunities against Test-playing nations.

"I think the associates have shown at what level associate cricket is at the moment," said the Netherlands player Bas de Leede. "We can only ask for more and more opportunities against the best because that's ultimately the way that we're going to improve as a collective. But for us at the moment, we've got nothing planned up until the start of June where we have a next series for World Cup qualification. So yeah, we'll have a couple of weeks off and then training starts again."

So what kind of help or support would you look at from the powers that be?

"Obviously, the schedules at the moment are pretty crammed already with franchise leagues and the future tours programme (FTP) of the ICC. So I think it's hard to schedule full series against top nations but I think one way that could potentially be an option is when travelling teams come to England for example, there's an option of playing a warm-up in Scotland or a warm-up in the Netherlands. I think there's ways around that where we still can get exposure of playing against the best teams and they get something out of it as well."

Given the tight international schedule, it may be tough for the ICC to ensure more such engagements, but individual cricket boards — especially those from India, Australia and England — should come forward to address this issue.

ICC has done well to expand the T20 World Cup to 20 teams in the last two editions. Given the nature of the format, which provides a more level-playing field than Tests and ODIs do, and the incentive to play on the cricket's biggest stage has not only helped cricket's growth across the globe but also taken firmer roots in nations where cricket is as alien as ice hockey in India.

As ODIs continue to lose their allure in the face of the proliferation of the shortest version, the T20 World Cup, sooner or later, could replace the 50-over World Cup as the ICC's flagship event. And with T20 being a great vehicle to spread cricket in non-traditional parts and make the game a truly global sport, ICC and other stakeholders are duty-bound to help Associates improve their standards.

Associate nations like the Netherlands showed they were not at the T20 World Cup just to make up the numbers. PTI

ICC's revenue streams
Broadcasting rights, sponsorship deals, event hosting fees, portion of ticket sales and licensing agreements and various commercial activities linked to ICC events.

Revenue sharing parameters
Cricket history, performance, commercial contribution and Full Member status

India's commercial weightage
India's commercial weightage is about 85.3%, with broadcasting rights for ICC from the country valued at over $3 billion (about Rs 27,200 crore) for the 2024-27 cycle.

Associates' share
The 98 Associate Members together receive 11.2 per cent or approximately USD 67.5 million (about Rs 612 crore) from a yearly net surplus earnings of USD 600 million.

Spanish players celebrate after scoring a goal against India in a pool match of the FIH Pro League in Hobart, Australia on Saturday. HI MEDIA

India's losing run continues in Pro League

HOBART, PTI: India's hopes of a revival in the FIH Men's Pro League were dashed as they suffered a 0-2 loss to Spain, continuing their unabated slump in form here on Saturday.

Goals from Ignacio Abajo (6th minute) and Ignacio Cobos (36th) proved decisive as Spain combined clinical finishing with disciplined defending to secure the win.

The Spaniards capitalised on their chances while India were unable to convert promising opportunities despite sustained attacking intent.

Outplayed by the opposition teams in the home leg in Rourkela with two losses each against Belgium and Argentina, the Indian team was hoping to bounce back and make a fresh start under new skipper Hardik Singh during the overseas leg.

The Hobart leg of the series, which also features hosts Australia, will be held till February 25.

India began the match with sharp, quick passing, looking to control possession early, but Spain's counter-attacking approach proved effective. Abajo capitalised on one such move, neatly deflecting the ball into the net to hand Spain an early lead.

Unfazed by the setback, India stayed committed to their structure, circulating the ball swiftly through midfield and probing Spain's defence with intent.

India will next take on hosts Australia in their second game on Sunday.

Result: Spain: 2 (Ignacio Abajo 6th, Ignacio Cobos 36th) bt India: 0.

TENNIS BENGALURU W100

Vaishnavi stuns Lanlana

India's world No. 690 pulls off her career's biggest victory to enter final

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

"Taking one point at a time" has been Vaishnavi Adkar's mantra for the week here at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium. Her stubborn mindset to stick to this routine through all her matches over four days, gave the Indian wildcard the biggest win of her career on Saturday and carried her to the final of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100.

Unlike the home girl's previous opponents, second-seeded Lanlana Tararudee of Thailand, ranked 126 in the world, was expected to know better and tame the tournament's slayer. Instead, it was the world No. 690 Vaishnavi who unleashed a performance beyond her ranking to score a straight-set 6-3, 6-3 win that left Lanlana stunned during their semifinal encounter that lasted a mere 66 minutes.

"I've been happy with the way I've been playing since the very first round," said the 21-year-old from Pune after her massive victory.

"So before getting on court today, all I was thinking about was irrespective of how the match was going or the score, I just wanted to go for my shots and not hold back at any given point. I wanted to make the best out of the opportunity that I've gotten from KSLTA and Sunil (Yajaman, joint secretary) sir. I'm glad that I was able to make the best use of it," pointed an elated Viashnavi, who became the first Indian to reach an ITF W100 final.

Coming onto the court following two three-setters in her previous two rounds, the right-handed Vaishnavi appeared to have trimmed some of the chinks in her armour to put together her most polished act in the tournament. It was her backhand - a shot Vaishnavi said she developed naturally - that not only stung but broke Lanlana's rhythm and confidence.

Barring the fourth game of the opening set and the seventh game in the second, where the Thai stretched server Vaishnavi to the brink but lost, the Indian required a total of four breaks of serves to wrap-up the last-four contest.

"I did not have a good serve or a big serve. But we have been working so much on it. So I think it's been one of the most important improvements that I've made in the last couple of weeks," offered Vaishnavi, who trains at the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy under coach Balachandran Manikkath.

With four hurdles cleared, the toughest one -- the final -- awaits the soft-spoken youngster. And waiting to counter the gaint-killing Vaishnavi in the summit clash will be third-seeded Hanne Vandewinkel of Belgium who beat fifth seed Polina Iatcenko of Russia in the second semifinal.

India's Vaishnavi Adkar celebrates after winning her semifinal against Lanlana Tararudee of Thailand in the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 at KSLTA's SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ PRASHANTH HG

Ankita, Priska lose

It was heartbreak for the other Indian in fray on Saturday as Ankita Raina and her Indonesian partner Priska Madelyn Nugroho (seeded third) went down in a three-set thriller to the Japanese pair of Misaki Matsuda and Eri Shimizu in the doubles final.

Misaki and Eri scored a 6-4, 3-6, 10-5 victory to be crowned champions and force Ankita and Priska to be content with the runners-up trophy.

Results (prefix denotes seeding): Singles: Semifinal: Vaishnavi Adkar (Ind) bt 2-Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) 6-3, 6-3; 3-Hanne Vandewinkel (Bel) bt 5-Polina Iatcenko 6-4, 7-6 (5).
Doubles: Final: Misaki Matsuda/ Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt 3-Ankita Raina (Ind)/ Priska Madelyn Nugroho (Ina) 6-4, 3-6, 10-5.

BFC brace for tactical duel with NEUFC

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Following an auspicious start to the season with a facile victory over SC Delhi, Bengaluru FC's push for the Indian Super League title goes up by several notches as they face an experienced NorthEast United FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Sunday.

The Renedy Singh-helmed Blues impressed with their modern-day football outlook as they dominated the ball possession with a high defensive line for a 2-0 win while their stalwart Sunil Chhetri came in late to score from the bench.

They now have to face a rival, who has shed their perennial underachiever's tag with a third-place finish on the points table last season and will test their tactical efficiency.

Led by a street-smart Spanish coach Pedro Benali, NEUFC have transformed the side into a title-winning team (back-to-back Durand Cup titles in 2024 and 2025). Not to forget, they troubled the last year's ISL runners-up at their own den as the Blues had to recover to a 2-2 draw after going two goals down.

The Highlanders, however, are without their top ISL goalscorer from the last season, Alaaeddine Ajaraie, as the Moroccan was loaned off to an Indonesian club due to the months of uncertainty surrounding Indian football recently. That could be the plausible explanation for their 0-3 defeat to East Bengal in their season opener. While their two pacey forwards — MS Jithin and Parthib Gogoi — looked lacklustre, new Argentine signing Jairo Samperio, who has top-tier experience in Spain and Germany, appeared rusty following a prolonged off-season too.

The quality of that attack trident, however, is too early to write off, especially when BFC's high-defensive line plays to their strength of catching them on the counter. Their two wingers like to drop down to help the three-man midfield, which has Karnataka's own Macarton Nickson at the heart of it.

Coach Renedy is well aware of the threat their opponents pose and has his plans to deal with them as he heads into the match with a fully-fit squad less than 24 hours before the game.

"All good teams in the world wan to keep the possession but then, how we attack together and how we defend together is the most important thing," said the former India midfielder. "As long as we can keep it compact and maintain a good structure while attacking and the same while defending, we can win. I demand that from the players."

BFC's attack-to-defence transition and vice-versa looked on point in the last game as Delhi SC lacked the serious pace and may not be the case against NEUFC. Creating enough chances with the possession and making them count becomes key in determining the result.

As far as creativity is concerned, the coach has kept multiple outlets through his midfield as well as defence.

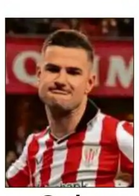
Bengaluru FC's Chinglensana Singh (right) with team-mate Sunil Chhetri during a training session in Bengaluru. BFC

Guruzeta's brace lifts Athletic past Elche

BILBAO (SPAIN), AP: A second-half double from Gorka Guruzeta gave Athletic Bilbao a 2-1 win over Elche in an action-packed La Liga encounter on Friday night.

It was a third consecutive league win for the Basque club and the first time it has put together three straight league wins since August.

It was also the second time in three games that Guruzeta has scored a brace, following his double in the 4-2 win over Levante on Feb. 8.



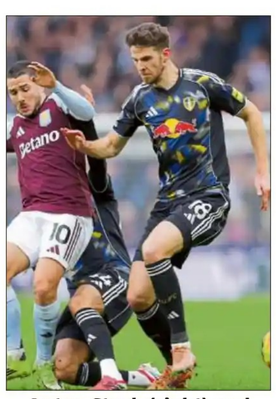
Gorka Guruzeta. X

His first at San Mames Stadium on Friday was a fine finish to convert a low cross from Yuri Berchiche and his second came from the penalty spot after a controversial award in the 89th minute.

In between, Andre Silva converted a penalty for Elche after being forced to retake his spot kick due to a double touch.

"Little by little things are starting to go our way," said Guruzeta, who missed the only other penalty he took for Athletic. It was another agonising reverse for Elche, which has gone eight games without a win.

Result: Athletic Bilbao: 2 (Guruzeta 64th, 89th P) bt Elche: 1 (Silva 69th P).



Anton Stach (right) and Emiliano Buendia.

Chelsea, Aston Villa held

LONDON, AFP

Chelsea's chances of Champions League qualification were dented as Burnley snatched a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge, while Aston Villa also struck late to salvage a point against Leeds on Saturday.

The Blues climb into the Premier League's top four only on goal difference after they paid for failing to build on Joao Pedro's fourth-minute opener.

Chelsea were dominant until Wesley Fofana was sent off with 18 minutes remaining for a second yellow card.

Burnley took full advantage as Zian Flemming headed in from a corner in the 93rd minute to keep their slim hopes of survival alive.

The Clarets edge to within eight points of safety.

Villa defied the odds to keep pace with Arsenal and Manchester City in the title race until recent weeks, but a 1-1 draw continued their poor run at Villa Park.

Anton Stach's spectacular free-kick from fully 40 yards (37 metres) at an angle caught out Emi Martinez at his near post to give Leeds the advantage.

Results: Aston Villa: 1 (Abraham 88th) drew with Leeds: 1 (Stach 31st); Brentford: 0 It to Brighton: 2 Gomez 30th, Welbeck 45th+1); Chelsea: 1 (Pedro 4th) drew with Burnley: 1 (Flemming 90th+3).

How Theosophy changed Hinduism

DHARMA

Devdutt Pattanaik
works with gods and demons who churn nectar from the ocean of Indian, Chinese, Islamic, Christian, even secular mythologies

Modern Hinduism, as it is practised and explained today, did not emerge in isolation. It was shaped in conversation with Europe at a moment when Christianity itself was in crisis. Theosophy became the bridge in this encounter. Through it, Hindu ideas were reframed, revived, and repackaged, influencing figures as different as Gandhi, Rukmini Arundale, and Sri Aurobindo. To understand modern Hinduism, one must first understand why Theosophy arose.

In 19th-century Europe, Christianity was under pressure. Biblical literalism was shaken by geology, archaeology, and above all, by Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. If humans evolved from earlier life forms, then the story of Adam and Eve, original sin, and a single creation event could no longer be taken at face value. Many educated Europeans found institutional Christianity morally rigid, intellectually defensive, and spiritually unsatisfying. Yet they were unwilling to abandon spirituality altogether. They began searching for alternatives that could accommodate science, evolution, and personal experience.

Theosophy emerged from this search. Founded by Helena Blavatsky in 1875, it proposed that all religions shared a single ancient wisdom tradition. Instead of one lifetime followed by eternal heaven or hell, it offered reincarnation. Instead of divine judgment, it offered karma. Instead of salvation through belief, it offered spiritual evolution. Darwin's biological evolution was absorbed into a spiritual narrative: consciousness itself was evolving through many lives towards perfection. This allowed Europeans to accept science without surrendering meaning.

India entered this story at a crucial moment. Under colonial rule, Hindu practices were often dismissed as superstitious and chaotic. Theosophy reversed this gaze. It presented Hinduism, especially Vedanta, as a sophisticated philosophical system far older and deeper than Christianity. Sanskrit texts were framed as repositories of universal truth. Rituals were downplayed; metaphysics was highlighted. This appealed to Western seekers and to English-educated Indians alike.

Gandhi's encounter with Theosophy in London illustrates this well. He had grown up Hindu but had little engagement with the Hindu philosophy. It was the Theosophists who introduced him to the *Bhagavad Gita* in translation. Through them, he encountered the idea that Hinduism was not about idol worship or caste rigidity but about ethics, self-discipline, and universal truth. Gandhi did not accept Theosophical occultism or secret masters, but the Theosophical framing helped him rediscover Hinduism as a moral philosophy compatible with modern life. His idea that all religions contain truth echoes Theosophical universalism, even as he grounded it in lived ethics rather than esoteric speculation.

Rukmini Arundale represents another Theosophical influence. A leading figure of the Theosophical Society in India, she was deeply shaped by its aesthetics and spiritual ideals. Her revival and reform of Bharatanatyam transformed a regional temple dance associated with devadasis into a refined, spiritual, pan-Indian classical art. Dance became a form of yoga, discipline, and spiritual expression, stripped of its awkward, even embarrassing, erotic and ritual ambiguities. This sanitisation and classicisation reflect Theosophy's tendency to extract philosophical purity from lived religious complexity. This played a key role in erasing the Devadasi legacy from history textbooks.

Sri Aurobindo's engagement was brief but significant. He encountered Theosophical ideas of hidden planes of consciousness, spiritual evolution, and inner guides. While he later rejected Theosophy's dependence on external masters and occult claims, he retained its evolutionary vision. His Integral Yoga speaks of the evolution of consciousness from matter to mind to spirit, echoing Darwin refracted through Vedanta. Where Theosophy spoke of root races and cosmic hierarchies, Aurobindo spoke of supramental consciousness, his own version of Hinduism. The structure remained; the language became Indian and experiential.

Theosophy thus acted as a translator. It took European anxieties about faith and science and answered them using Indian vocabulary. In doing so, it reshaped Hinduism into something modern, global, ethical, and philosophical. This Hinduism was no longer tied to village ritual or sectarian loyalty but to universal ideas of consciousness, evolution, and inner truth.

Interestingly, another response to the same European crisis produced Mormonism. Like Theosophy, Mormonism emerged from dissatisfaction with mainstream Christianity. It rejected established churches, introduced new cosmologies, and expanded the idea of human potential. Humans could progress eternally and even become divine. But where Theosophy dissolved authority into ancient wisdom and individual inquiry, Mormonism institutionalised revelation. It created new scriptures, prophets, priesthoods, and a tightly organised community. Theosophy turned eastward to India and Tibet; Mormonism rooted sacred history in America.

Both movements show how Christianity fractured under modern pressures and reassembled itself in new forms. Theosophy influenced Hindu modernity; Mormonism created a new religion altogether. Modern Hinduism, shaped by Theosophy, thus carries within it not only ancient Indian ideas but also the unresolved questions of 19th-century Europe about faith, science, evolution, and meaning. Theosophy allowed elite Hindus to imagine a Hinduism devoid of caste or even to project caste as a kind of spiritual evolution.

SARKARI SECRETS

PMO funds? Don't ask

Soon after the Union government notified the rules to implement the 2023 Digital Personal Data Protection Act, in November last year, a Gen-Z influencer Instagrammed a biting explainer in Hinglish: "On the one hand, the government has empowered itself to compel private entities to hand over people's personal data like private chats, photos, location, and biometrics, without obtaining their consent, for protecting the country's sovereignty and integrity. On the other hand, it has amended the RTI Act to deny them access to all personal information about public servants for protecting their privacy... Since when did our democracy start functioning like this?" she asked.

Even as we scratch our heads for an answer to this elementary question, the media has reported a recent communication from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Apparently, questions about the PMCARES Fund, Prime Minister's Relief Fund (PMNRF), and the National Defence Fund (NDF), which the PMO administers, are not admissible under the House business rules. For several years, the government has fought citizens tooth and nail to keep PMCARES and PMNRF out of the ambit of the RTI Act. Now our elected representatives are being gagged with a "thou shalt not ask!" commandment. Is Article 105 of our Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech in Parliament, due for a sabbatical? Will the Speaker bend or defend our MPs' right to know?

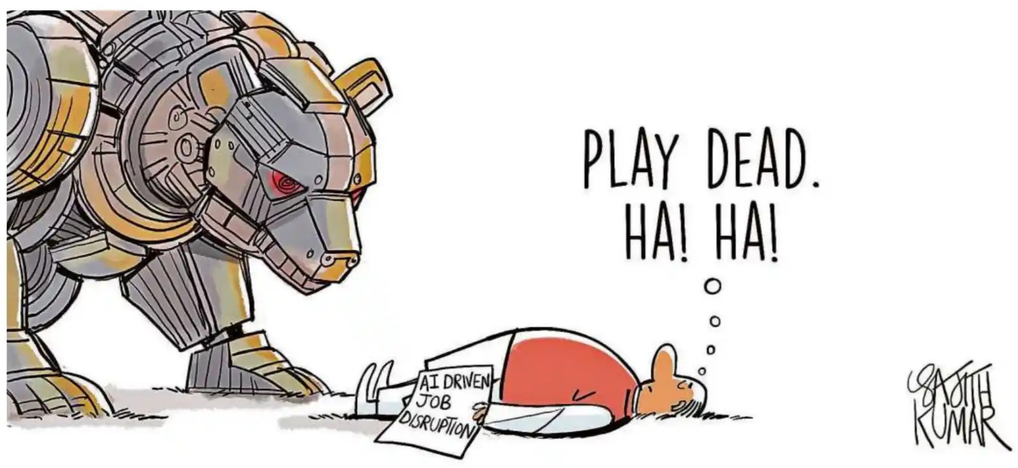
The government reasons that these funds are not supported by any budgetary allocation approved by Parliament. So, questions about their affairs cannot be admitted there. RTI replies I obtained from central public sector enterprises and the data gleaned from their annual CSR expenditure reports show that between 2020-2021, they had contributed more than Rs 2,330 crore to the PM-CARES Fund. The President, the first citizen of our country, is the majority shareholder in these companies. Should other citizens not ask how this money was spent during the COVID pandemic? As I am an Intervenor in the PMCARES Fund case pending in the Delhi High Court, propriety prevents me from commenting further except to say that the 40th hearing to decide whether it can be made answerable to the people under the RTI Act will be on the 1st of April!

Venkatesh Nayak
wakes up every morning thinking someone somewhere is hiding something

As for the PMNRF, the Central Information Commission ruled in 2012 that names of institutional donors are not *sarkari* secrets. In 2015, a single bench of the Delhi High Court upheld this decision as a reasonable one and directed the PMO to respond to such RTI enquiries. In 2018, a division bench of the court gave a split decision in an appeal. One judge held that the PMNRF is like any other public authority under the RTI Act, subject only to its permissible exemptions to disclosure. The other judge ruled that it is like an NGO and no information about its affairs can be accessed under the RTI Act. They recommended that the Chief Justice refer the issue to a third judge. In 2026, we are still waiting for that judge to hear this case.

Few people are aware that the PMNRF and the NDF serve another public purpose, above and beyond those underpinning their establishment. This novel application was created by the judicial arm of the State. Both funds are used for depositing the costs which courts and tribunals impose on litigants for wasting their precious time. Since 2001, in at least 100+ cases, high courts, tribunals like ITAT, NCLT, CESTAT, and DRAT, and even the Supreme Court, have imposed costs totalling over Rs 3 crore to be deposited in these funds. In more than 35 cases, the dissenting judge of the Delhi High Court issued such orders favouring PMNRF! Are these truly voluntary contributions?

Again, not many people remember that between 1964 and 1965, Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri answered at least two NDF-related questions in Parliament. One was about the money donated by 'left communist group' members detained in Kerala's jails, for the country's defence during the Indo-Pak war. Another was about more than a hundred NDF receipt books that went missing in Delhi. In 1965, his Education Minister, noted jurist M C Chagla, assured the Lok Sabha that information about contributions from Delhi's school-going students, allegedly collected without issuing proper receipts, would be tabled soon. The claimants to Shastri's legacy, who mostly use his birth anniversary as a counter-event for Gandhi Jayanti, would do well to emulate the high standards of transparency and accountability he set at the PMO.



THE Z FACTOR

Epstein exposes democracy's fault lines

Over 30 years ago, on one cold November night, when tens of thousands of Germans from east and west tore down the Berlin Wall, they were trying to send a powerful message: that there shall be no barriers, no hurdles and no walls to human freedom and endeavour in a free and open new world.

In the years that followed, a sprawling global architecture was built to give voice to that aspiration. Borders vanished across Europe with the adoption of the Schengen framework. A World Trade Organisation was formed to advance and regulate trade, attracting the participation of sundry political systems from China to the United States. Erstwhile socialist and communist economies loosened restrictions on foreign trade and investment. And vast numbers of people from those countries began migrating to the West to access new economic opportunities.

Political change followed as well. On either side of the turn of the millennium, there was a surge in the transition to democracy across the world. Leaders from various minority communities made history in their respective countries by becoming the first from their groups to win elections.

Behind this wave of optimistic fervour, there was a loud and oft-repeated belief: that no matter where one is born, if one works hard enough, they will find the opportunities to level up in life. But a quarter of the way into this new century, that belief is dying a quiet death.

Last year, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – a global forum which brings together many of the world's major economies – published a couple of studies which investigated what determines whether a person would become economically successful.

The findings were profound. At least 25% of the total inequality in income was attributed to "inherited circumstances", including gender, place of birth, and how well your parents did in life. In particular, whether or not your parents have a university degree has an outsized impact on whether you will gain the skills needed to thrive in the knowledge economy: skills such as literacy, numeracy, and adaptive problem solving.

These trends have begun to have a telling social, political, and economic impact on our time. In many parts of the world, those who come from rural countryside or poorer households are losing trust that they can compete to earn a better life and livelihood than their parents. The optimistic fervour that had torn down the Berlin Wall – because everyone believed that an open and interconnected world would help them forge a better future – has been steadily replaced by a world of tariffs, visa restrictions, and identity wars.

Mohamed Zeeshan
is a student of all things global and, self-confessedly, master of none, notwithstanding his Columbia Master's, a stint with the UN and with monarchs in the Middle East
@ZeeMohamed_

That brings us to the world of the disgraced sex offender and former Wall Street financier, Jeffrey Epstein. For years, Epstein used his immense wealth to buy silence from his victims, accomplices, and acquaintances. But he also used it to twist laws and institutions to help people within his circle get a leg-up in their own business and professional endeavours.

Epstein's network of clients and favours was eclectic. A tech billionaire used him to raise money for his nonprofit. A minister and diplomat used him to get access to potential investors. Another used him to overturn his daughter's rejection from an Ivy League school. Many of these exchanges occurred well past his initial conviction for sex crimes.

The popular interpretation of what all this means is multifold. One, people believe that Epstein was able to continue committing heinous crimes with impunity because he was rich and powerful. Two, to become so rich and powerful, people now think that networks, connections, and favours matter as much – if not more than – skill or merit. That structural fact was part of Epstein's power: by virtue of knowing him, many benefited where they otherwise may not have.

In that regard, Epstein's success was the result of an institutional failure. The role of laws, norms, and institutions is to maintain a level playing field for the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak. That level playing field forms the basis of a meritocratic economy in which people with few resources can rise up the ranks.

When the wealthy and the powerful sidestep or bend those institutions, it shakes the public's faith in the level playing field. That leads to the rise of populist politics – and politicians who promise to break and bust the institutions that have lost the trust of the people. But breaking is not the same thing as repairing.

THE DIGITAL ALARMIST

AI engines, hidden controls

Not only is India the world's most populated country, but it is also the world's biggest market for consumer goods – a market ready to be exploited by the likes of Microsoft, Amazon, and Google using their AI-enhanced software products. Google's current language translation software is being expanded to include a large number of previously ignored Indian languages, spoken by millions who now have smartphones, extra disposable income, and easy access to the internet. To the computer-savvy Indian, this may all seem quite obvious.

However, what is not so obvious are the two principal downsides to this rapid expansion in internet capability, especially when it comes to searching the web in a plethora of languages, be it for looking up/sharing information or online shopping. The unchallenged leaders in facilitating these activities are Google, which provides the virtual content, and Amazon, which brokers the selling of all manner of physical goods.

The dissemination of misinformation and disinformation has gotten a whole lot easier using 'slop', a term used to describe digital content of low-quality AI that is currently permeating the web on a hitherto unknown scale. According to *The Guardian*, more than 20% of all digital imagery YouTube's algorithm shows to new users is AI slop; the 'nudification' algorithms of Musk's Grok are a disturbing example. This can prove especially troublesome at election time since it is during election campaigns that misogyny, racism, and xenophobia tend to peak.

The automatic incorporation of AI into search engines permits AI algorithms to unilaterally make decisions without consulting the user. Shopping decisions can now be made by AI algorithms, and it is only a matter of time before these same algorithms will decide for you how you should vote in any election. Democracy is in danger, and few voters realise this. Imagine what would happen if a user were to ask search engines to make recommendations on which party and/or which candidate he or she should vote for in an upcoming election. It is only the rare user who would question the recommendation made by the engine and make up their own minds.

Roger Marshall
is a computer scientist, a newly minted Luddite and a cynic

How you lean politically on a given issue can easily be inferred from your web activity – which articles you read, which media and think-tank websites you visit, which political parties you contribute to, etc. The context in which you got interested in reading a set of articles about a particular topic is conveniently ignored. Moreover, since AI produces an automatic summarisation of any and all articles, readers end up not bothering to read the original articles in their entirety, even though the summaries may be entirely misleading. Even though the summaries are accompanied by the search engine company's caveat that the summarisation may not be accurate, readers tend to ignore the warning, thereby letting the companies absolve themselves of any legal liability.

In civil and criminal cases, when lawyers base their arguments on case summaries generated by AI, the law gets perverted, since nuances and context aren't exactly AI's forte.

Donald Trump has called for the unfettered access of America's high-tech companies, especially Big Tech, to world markets and has threatened to sanction any country that attempts to rein in these companies by enforcing their data and privacy protection rules and levying multimillion-dollar fines because of their monopolistic behaviour.

The windowless, soulless modern architectural marvels that are warehouses, typically located in sparsely populated rural areas where land is plentiful and cheap, which have sprouted across the globe to serve the wants and needs of a consumer society, can also serve as detention camps in case the customers, in whatever country, rise in revolt. An equally monstrous set of buildings in similar locations, which house data centres, use a tremendous amount of electricity and water resources, depriving citizens of these scarce commodities.

Since both types of warehouses are considered US assets that further America's economic interests worldwide, any threats to these could trigger a military response. To paraphrase Trump, the Pentagon is always locked and loaded.

You will be gratified to know that, and here I am quoting Google, "Google runs regular checks for the information you care about and lets you know if it shows up in search results." It helps you find personal information, and if the removal request meets policy requirements, Google will remove the information for everyone.

Good luck finding what Google's policy requirements are, and even better luck trying to decipher 'for everyone'.

OUTSIDE

Word, visual, meaning: The order of looking, rearranged

Sumana Roy
is an author and poet. Her books include *How I Became a Tree* and *Provincials*

My niece loves making greeting cards. She is seven, and given the near paperless culture she's been born into, probably hasn't ever received such a card in her life. It's an abstraction for her, an urgent and useless thing – as soon as she's finished making one, she loses interest in it. It makes me slightly scared to imagine that god might be like her – uninterested in us right after creating us. How she came to create greeting cards is a bit of a mystery. I discovered that she began saying 'crafts' to the YouTube search engine as soon as she found access to her mother's cell phone. This is how it must have turned up, in English or some other language that she didn't understand, instructions to the eye. Paper, a box of crayons, her tiny fingers, as soon as they had acquired the intelligence to fold – that was all that was required.

Flowers, suns, stars, grass, birds, blue, blue sky, and blue water – they found hostel space in these pieces of paper. All of a sudden, the number of days to celebrate seemed too few – birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Christmas, the new year, even Independence Day and Republic Day, how few these are to supply occasions for the creation and gifting of cards? Soon, without knowing it, she was changing the calendar – filling it, even crowding it, with events whose significance was beyond the hierarchical ordering of the social world.

'Will you sit next to me?' She wrote this on a card for a girl on her school bus, someone older than her by a few years. There was a yellow bus on the card, the request written on its interior. She went to the bus stop the next day expecting her older schoolmate to sit next to her. No such thing happened. A few days passed. The little girl, perhaps hurt from not having her request kept, came up with an explanation: the person to whom she'd given the card hadn't opened the card to see the words; she must have only seen the painting of the yellow bus.

This was a watershed moment in the making of her cards. So long, following what she had seen on YouTube, she had drawn something on the 'outside', the front of the card – the words were inside, like a house is behind a door. I say 'door' consciously. For that is what the folded page of a card looks like – its movement is similar to a door's. My niece decided to change the order of looking – to keep the words on the outer page, the drawings inside. This year, she made a card for Valentine's Day – what the words and the day meant would have been unfamiliar to her, but it is impossible not to hear its noise on television. It is the most unique Valentine's Day card I've seen. On the front and back is an assemblage of a single word repeated over and over again: girl girl girl girl girl girl girl girl... Yellow sketch pen ink on white paper. From the words, it is hard to guess what this card could be meant for. Inside, on the left page, are three sentences about girls – they include difficult words, misspelled, perhaps because she's only heard them being used around her. The concluding sentence on this page is a complaint about her brother; giving his full name, she lists her main grudge against him, his teasing her. On the right page inside is a drawing of an animal. She's made it easier for us to understand what it is – 'Mr. Fox'.

It is not the *Panchatantra*-inspired likening of her brother's behaviour to the fox that surprised me as much as the location of word and image. How easily she had presumed that putting the words before the image would catch human attention. I wondered where she might have got it from. It came out one day, during a walk in the neighbourhood – she'd noticed the names on the walls, how they offered information. The house was more beautiful than the 'words', she'd decided; the house was the drawing on the card, the 'greetings' the name plate. It wasn't so much the conclusion the seven-year-old girl had arrived at that surprised me as much as how she'd arrived at it.

What, then, is the *outside* of a greeting card? My niece occasionally folds the thin paper of her cards inside out – how easy it seems at that moment, to turn the outside into the inside and then the reverse. Often there is nothing that connects them, the outside and the inside, the 'girl girl girl girl girl girl' with 'Mr. Fox'. What do we notice first – the painting or its title?

India's silent health crisis is emerging within bodies that appear healthy. Karan Sarin explores hidden metabolic problems that are changing disease trends and cautions about the risky gap between feeling unwell and being declared medically normal by standard tests

Solving the M puzzle

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Our grandparents worried about contaminated water. We should worry about contaminated lifestyles.

In just two generations, India has undergone one of the most dramatic health transformations in human history. For decades, infectious diseases like malaria and tuberculosis dominated our fears, but today, we face a different enemy: metabolic disease. This transition didn't happen overnight; it has been building for decades, quietly transforming our bodies from within.

I witnessed the tragic reality of this shift in my own family. At just 49, my brother-in-law — a man with no apparent symptoms that would drive him to seek medical attention — suffered a fatal cardiac event. He never suspected that metabolic dysfunction was steadily damaging his heart. His story is not unique; it reflects a national crisis that has become increasingly apparent with each passing year.

Karan Sarin

Why do metabolic diseases hit our population so hard? The answer lies in what researchers call a "perfect metabolic storm" — a unique convergence of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. To understand the scope of this crisis, however, we must first unlearn what we think sickness looks like.

Thin on the outside, sick on the inside

First, we must look beyond standard definitions of obesity. While researching, I encountered the "Asian Indian Paradox" — the puzzling observation that Indians develop metabolic disorders like diabetes and heart disease at lower body weights than people of European descent. This explains why even seemingly "normal weight" Indians can harbour dangerous levels of metabolic dysfunction.

We tend to accumulate fat centrally, around our organs, rather than under our skin. This visceral fat, invisible from the outside, is metabolically active tissues that produce inflammatory compounds and disrupt insulin signalling. This is why the standard Body Mass Index (BMI) cutoffs had to be revised downward specifically for Indians; what might be considered a "healthy" BMI of 25 for a European could already indicate significant metabolic risk for an Indian.

At the core of this crisis is 'metabolic syndrome,' also known as insulin resistance syndrome. It is a cluster of conditions — high blood sugar, high blood pressure, low "good" cholesterol, high triglycerides, and excess belly fat.

When your cells start ignoring insulin's signals, your pancreas responds by working overtime to produce more insulin — think of it like shouting louder when someone can't hear you. This flood of extra insulin, or 'compensatory hyperinsulinemia,' is the body's desperate attempt to force stubborn cells to respond.

Unfortunately, this excess insulin triggers inflammation and promotes the storage of dangerous fat around your organs. This creates a vicious, self-reinforcing cycle that leads to coronary heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

In my experiments using Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs), I've witnessed this dysfunction firsthand: seemingly fit individuals with normal BMIs show dramatic blood glucose spikes after meals, indicating underlying insulin resistance that standard health checks miss entirely.

This biological reality reveals a dangerous blind spot. I receive messages daily from people like Anil, a 42-year-old manager in Noida who looks fine on paper but feels his body shutting down by 3 pm every day. Despite physical symptoms like fatigue, frequent cravings, dark discolouration on his neck (*Acanthosis nigricans*), and unexplained weight gain, his standard blood tests came back "normal."

Anil's confusion reflects what millions of Indians are quietly discovering: the gap between feeling unwell and what standard tests can detect. This disconnect allows metabolic dysfunction to progress undetected for years.

The diabetes iceberg

When I first learned that India was the global diabetes capital, it struck me as hyperbole. How could a country with ancient traditions of vegetarianism and yoga lead the world in the prevalence of lifestyle diseases? Yet the numbers tell a different story. A major 2023 study published in *The Lancet* revealed that 101 million Indians now have diabetes. Even more concerning, another 136 million have prediabetes.

Combined, nearly 1 in 4 Indians face severe metabolic dysfunction. Most alarming is that nearly 57% of these cases remain undiagnosed. This is the "Diabetes Iceberg": visible diagnoses are just the tip, while a massive population of undiagnosed and pre-diabetic individuals lies beneath the surface.

Metabolic dysfunction does not stop at blood sugar; it ripples through every organ system.

- **The Liver:** Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) now affects approximately one in three urban Indians. It forms a dangerous feedback loop: liver fat impairs insulin action, promoting further fat accumulation. My brother-in-law was diagnosed with fatty liver five years before his death, but the severity of the connection to cardiovascular risk was not understood.
- **The Heart:** Cardiovascular disease is now India's leading killer, accounting for 27% of all deaths. The average age of a first heart attack in India is 53 years — a full decade earlier than in developed countries. Tragically, nearly 40% of heart attacks in India occur in people under 55.
- **Reproductive Health:** The crisis attacks our most intimate functions. Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) affects up to 22.5% of Indian women in some regions, intimately linked to insulin resistance. Similarly, erectile dysfunction (ED) is rising among young men; nearly 25% of patients with ED are now below 30. These are not isolated issues; they are early warning signs of vascular and metabolic distress.

> Our system rewards treatment over prevention. Insurance covers expensive insulin therapy, but rarely covers nutritional counselling or continuous glucose monitoring that could prevent the disease entirely.

A crisis that's getting younger

This timeline is accelerating. Metabolic syndrome, once considered a disease of older adults, is increasingly being diagnosed in young adults and even adolescents. Recent data reveal that roughly 13% of those aged 18-29 years already have metabolic syndrome. Even among adolescents aged 10-19, the prevalence is 5.2%.

Why are today's younger Indians so susceptible? It's a collision of our genetic predispositions and rapid lifestyle changes. Our bodies, evolved to survive food scarcity, are now drowning in an environment of abundance.

Five key factors are driving this:

- **Nutritional Transition:** Fast food consumption in urban areas has increased by over 40% in the past decade alone.
- **Physical Inactivity:** Over 54% of urban Indian youth engage in less than 30 minutes of physical activity per day.
- **Sleep Disruption:** Average sleep duration has decreased by approximately one hour over the past two decades.
- **Environmental Factors:** Rapid urbanisation has increased exposure to pollution and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.
- **Stress:** Chronic stress in competitive environments triggers the release of cortisol, which promotes visceral fat accumulation.

This produces an "amplification effect," where each risk factor potentiates the others, hitting the younger generation harder than ever before.

Cost of inaction

This physical suffering is compounded by a devastating economic reality. When my brother-in-law was hospitalised, the ICU costs alone averaged Rs 25,000 per day. For a middle-class family, the cost of treating diabetes alone can consume 5-25% of their household income.

Research indicates that nearly 80% of the costs of metabolic diseases are borne directly by patients. This leads to "distress financing" — borrowing money or selling assets — which affects a large number of patients. The economic shock can be crippling, forcing families to compromise on education, housing, and nutrition. At a national level, the implications are dire. India's annual cost of diabetes treatment is projected to reach Rs 1,26,000 crore in the near future. Because the highest growth in diabetes is occurring in the 45-64 age group — people in the peak of their productive lives — this crisis threatens to undermine India's demographic dividend.

Why we can't afford to wait

The true tragedy isn't just the financial cost; it's that these devastating outcomes are largely preventable. We are facing a "slow-motion pandemic" that develops over decades.

Our current healthcare paradigm is structured to react, not prevent. The standard annual check-up relies on backwards-looking indicators like fasting glucose and HbA1c. If these numbers are "normal," we are sent home. But this is like installing a fire alarm that only rings after the house has been burning for hours. Insulin resistance can begin developing up to 20 years before blood glucose levels register as "pre-diabetic".

Our system rewards treatment over prevention. Insurance covers expensive insulin therapy, but rarely covers nutritional counselling or continuous glucose monitoring that could prevent the disease entirely.

The statistics I have shared represent real lives and real suffering. But the situation is not hopeless. Research shows that metabolic dysfunction is reversible in its early stages through lifestyle interventions.

We must shift from a reactive mindset to a proactive one. We need to look beyond glucose and understand insulin. Modern technology allows us to see how our metabolism responds to food, stress, and sleep in real-time, detecting dysfunction years before conventional tests do. My family's experience taught me a hard lesson: in the realm of metabolic health, the most dangerous words are "everything looks normal".

The moment to act is not when symptoms become unmistakable, but now, when the whispers of metabolism can already be heard. In the battle against this silent epidemic, time is our greatest ally — if we choose to use it well.

The author is a certified metabolic health coach and creator of a popular Instagram community. His book 'Sick Nation: Inside India's Lifestyle Disease Epidemic and How to Fix It' was recently released by Wyzr Publishing.
Disclaimer: *The article is for information purposes only. Readers are advised to consult a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice or treatment.*

Why does metabolic health matter?

"Metabolic health" is a term difficult to define, in part because it typically refers to the absence of metabolic syndrome, a cluster of interrelated health problems that reflect issues with metabolism, or how your body uses and stores energy. Metabolic syndrome is defined as having at least three of the following: high waist circumference, high triglycerides, low levels of "good" cholesterol, high blood pressure and high blood sugar. These conditions increase the risk for heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

Adiposity, the accumulation of excess body fat, particularly in the abdomen, is a significant component of metabolic dysfunction, said Dr Latha Palaniappan, the associate dean for research at Stanford Medicine. Fat cells store energy in the form of triglycerides. When we chronically consume more calories than we expend, and exceed what our fat cells can store, those triglycerides begin to go where they don't belong, like the liver and muscles, said Dr Paul Cohen, an associate professor at Rockefeller University whose lab studies obesity and metabolic disease. The fat cells release inflammatory molecules, which make it harder for insulin to work; insulin resistance, in turn, contributes to obesity. "It's a circular loop," Cohen said.

Obesity is not just a product of what we eat and how much we exercise; much of it is driven by genetics. So is body shape. People with an apple shape, who store excess fat in the abdomen, are more likely to experience metabolic issues than those who are pear-shaped, storing their excess fat in the hips and thighs, Cohen said.One reason, he said, is that subcutaneous fat (the kind that sits just under the skin) and visceral fat (the kind that surrounds your internal organs) are molecularly different, expressing genes differently and affecting inflammation differently.

Getting to a healthy weight is a key first step in preventing metabolic dysfunction. Doctors typically recommend starting with lifestyle interventions — quitting smoking, getting more exercise, following a heart-healthy diet like the Mediterranean or DASH diet and getting adequate sleep. **NYT**

How does fasting affect metabolism?

In 2013, a British journalist and a doctor introduced an obscure dietary protocol to the wider culture. The idea was simple: Two days a week, eat almost nothing — fewer than 600 calories. The rest of the time, eat normally.

The writers, Dr Michael Mosley and Mimi Spencer, claimed "The Fast Diet" could help you shed fat, reverse Type 2 diabetes and stave off age-related diseases of mind and body. Early studies had shown it had outsized benefits in lab mice, and scientists were enthusiastic about its prospects for humans.

This simple intermittent fast (today referred to as a 5:2 diet) was not the first of its kind to go mainstream, but it became an international sensation. Today, there are dozens more variations, with books, apps, wearables and supplements to support them. All intermittent fasts alternate periods when you're allowed to eat with periods when you should eat nothing or very little. In perhaps the most popular variant, the 16:8 diet, you fast most of the day and only eat during an eight-hour window.

Proponents of the diets praise them for being easier to follow than regular diets and offering greater weight-loss and metabolic benefits. But researchers have been growing disillusioned with them. As more studies have piled up, the gaps between the claims and the evidence behind them have grown.

Does it trigger weight loss?

The most common claim about intermittent fasting is that it's a better way to lose weight than other diets. Early mouse and rat experiments suggested that something interesting was going on beyond simple calorie restriction. The animals lost weight and stayed healthier than mice that ate normally, no matter how many calories they binged between fasts. But in humans, the idea that intermittent fasts offer special weight loss benefits "really hasn't been borne out by the data," said James Betts, a professor of metabolic physiology at the University of Bath in Britain.

At first glance, it would appear that the research is mixed — some studies find that intermittent fasting is no more effective for weight loss than other diets, while others report a small additional benefit. But many of the latter are based on small, low-quality studies, Betts said. Several studies even suggest that some forms of fasting may be bad for your metabolism. In a 2021 paper comparing alternate-day fasting with normal calorie restriction, people in both groups lost equivalent amounts of weight, but those who fasted lost far more muscle, which negatively affects metabolism. **NYT**

This is a fascinating account of the Keeladi excavations, and how political battles over culture and history continue to shape our understanding of India's past, writes ETB Sivapriyan

Unearthing the narrative

The excavation site in Keeladi. (Inset): Artefacts being unearthed at the site.
(PICS COURTESY: TN STATE DEPT OF ARCHAEOLOGY)

To say that Keeladi changed the way people in South India, particularly Tamil Nadu, view archaeological excavations isn't an exaggeration. The Sangam Era site near Madurai did not merely rekindle ordinary Tamils' interest in their past; it filled them with real pride too.

Until Keeladi's discovery in 2014 by the Archaeological Survey of India's K Amarnath Ramakrishna, historians believed large-scale urbanisation thrived only in the northern part of India, with the South lagging far behind.

But Keeladi disproved that long-held notion, as archaeologists unearthed an expanse of brick walls and ring wells from beneath the earth.

Over the past decade, nearly 20,000 artefacts have been unearthed from this site, making it contemporaneous with North India's Gangetic civilisation. In 2019, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) announced that the site is 2,600 years old, armed with AMS dating.

THE DIG
Sowmiya Ashok
John Murray,
pp 320, Rs 799

Journalist Sowmiya Ashok's The Dig offers a fascinating account of the Keeladi excavations, the politics swirling around the site, and how political battles over science and history continue to shape our understanding of India's past.

"In Tamil Nadu, Keeladi is no longer just a name; it has become an emotion," Sowmiya writes. And she is right — Tamils, over the years, began referring to the archaeological site as *nam thai madi* (our mother's lap), signifying the deep emotional connection the village evoked.

While exploring how politics has always played a key role in interpreting archaeological findings, Sowmiya lucidly explains how Keeladi got caught in the age-old Dravidian-versus-Aryan divide.

While Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu took great pride in Keeladi, flaunting the absence of religious markers, the BJP government, which insists on a homogenous Hindu identity, still has problems accepting findings from Keeladi. She also subtly reveals why excavations in Tamil Nadu were drawn into politics.

Though she weaves the book around Keeladi, Sowmiya travelled extensively across India to share glimpses of the country's rich and glorious past, how excavations are planned and executed, and the scientific study of cultural deposits buried deep underground.

From Sivagalai in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district — the earliest Iron Age site known anywhere in the world — to Keeladi, to Rakhigarhi (a major Harappan site), to the lost port of Muziris in Kerala, to Lucknow, and to Hyderabad, to meet archaeologists and scientists, she uses her journalistic brilliance to narrate the past with striking clarity.

She even gives a sneak peek at Harappan sites in Pakistan — hold your breath, she didn't visit our neighbour — but virtually enjoyed exploring the magnificent urban life of Mohenjo-daro through a kind-hearted Pakistani tour guide. The author donned several hats on her journey, letting her inner foodie shine through.

It is delightful when Sowmiya admits she ate so much while researching in Madurai that she could piece together a whole goat from all the bits.

Aromatic biryani, suva roti (goat's spleen), liver, parotta, kidney, uthappam, and venkaya kari — Sowmiya has savoured them all, capturing Madurai's vibrant flavours and the city's role in Tamil culture.

In a way, the author has written a travelogue, painting vivid scenes as she packed her bags to roam India. And her humour shines through in tales of travel and chats with a cross-section of people.

The book also explains in detail why Keeladi is still celebrated by Tamils, one of the reasons being that the archaeological findings validate the Sangam text, effectively busting the theory that they were mere poetic indulgences. To grasp this Tamil literary treasure, Sowmiya took a two-month crash course in Sangam poetry.

Many historians say history is not just about empires, kings, and their wars, but essentially about people. Sowmiya gets this, lending her ear to the ground and amplifying voices like those of archaeological officers, who rarely get noticed.

She also brings out the emotions and people behind the excavations — those central to the sites, like the archaeologists who painstakingly dig the ground and collect samples for scientific analyses, the lifestyle of the ancient inhabitants, and how they lived.

Be it Amarnath, the archaeologist who first excavated Keeladi and is now locked in a running battle with his employer, ASI; teacher Balasubramanian, who spotted the first potsherds in the village; Nathar Mohammed, whose family gave up land; or epigraphist Vedachalam — she spent enough time with them to draw out gripping stories.

Most strikingly, she spotlights the labourers who dug the trenches under archaeologists' watch, revealing a distinct Tamil culture and their deep affinity for their language.

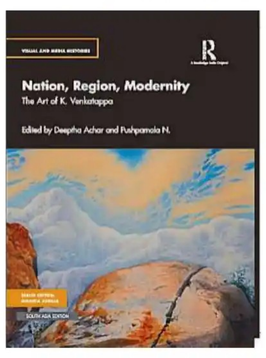
The book also probes whether Ramakrishna's early comparison of Keeladi to the Indus Valley Civilisation, echoed in Tamil Nadu, fuelled the political tussle. She explains how teams scout sites, like Ramakrishna's, who surveyed Madurai's length, breadth, and the Vaigai riverbed to pinpoint Keeladi.

The Dig is not just one archaeological site's story. It is about how excavations in India get filtered through politics, not pure science.

A revisiting of an unsung modernist

This volume on K Venkatappa, one of India's greatest artists, also highlights Karnataka's political and cultural shifts, making it essential reading, writes Indira Chandrasekhar

On the cover of this comprehensive volume on the artist K Venkatappa is his watercolour of Chamundi Hills, Mysuru. Delicately rendered, yet substantial, this image leads us into the volume, establishing the artist's fine skill, revealing his control over 'modern' art techniques, and inviting us to engage with his connection to nature and place. Situating the artist in the Mysuru landscape, it alludes to the tension between region and nation that is examined in the volume. K Venkatappa, described by series editor Monica Juneja as a 'long unsung modernist artist' who 'traversed the worlds of artisanal tradition and modern art practice', had the State Art Gallery named after him. This volume seeks to contextualise him in the changing social and political times in which he lived.



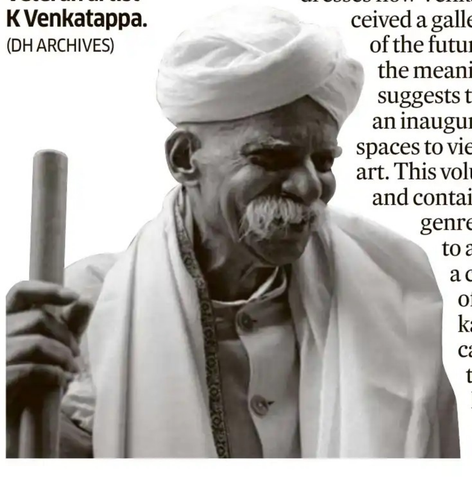
The introductory essay by co-editors Pushpamala N and Deepthi Achar provides the socio-historical context within which to examine Venkatappa's art, underlining the disparate worlds he inhabited as an artist. It discusses the relationship between art and state authority during a time of competing colonial, princely and national powers and highlights a contemporary bid to privatise the State Art Gallery long after his passing.

The volume is organised in five sections to provide a logic with which to view the complexity of the artist's life. It examines the impact of politics, economics, nationalism, and changing social mores and contexts on art in the 20th century. Aspects of princely Mysuru emerge through different essays: caste ramifications of the court painters (although Venkatappa came from the traditional Chitragara community, his life was separated from theirs), the realities of court patronage, art produced for the court and attendant challenges, and the place of photography. Critical to the understanding of the transition to modernity is a review of philosophical movements led by artists and thinkers that arose in resistance to the pedagogic dominance of Western ideas. It draws attention to Venkatappa's importance in the 'visual exemplification' of Abanindranath Tagore's manifestation of a decolonial Indian aesthetic — a 'new artistic anatomy'.

The book also covers aspects of biography: Venkatappa's move to Bengaluru towards the end of his life was marked by a series of acerbic court cases. Of note is the one against the Mysuru Court with regard to the decommissioning of his bas reliefs. At the same time, he developed a 'creative kinship' with intellectual giants from different disciplines — scientist CV Raman, poet James H Cousins, botanist and writer BGL Swamy.

Essays by Chandan Gowda, RH Kulkarni, Suresh Jayaram, Mamta Sagar, Srajana Kaikini and other scholars embedded in the regional context examine Venkatappa's art with a critical eye. They draw parallels and comparisons with other Karnataka stalwarts, and comment on his personality — uncompromising, strict, litigious, 'self-conscious'. Venkatappa's responses to daily life and to readings of his work in his lifetime, recorded in letters and diaries (preserved in the Karnataka State Archives), further enhance our image of the man: detailed, meticulous, frugal, with a strong sense of self.

Many of the theses in the volume find rationale in Pushpamala's essay on Venkatappa's bas reliefs commissioned by the Court. The essay includes a history of the commission, commentary on bas reliefs as a prevalent art form, the 'construction of the Indian masculine', and a perceptive description of the reliefs themselves. The closing chapter by Janaki Nair addresses how Venkatappa might have perceived a gallery in his name for a public of the future. Raising questions about the meaning of public art spaces, she suggests that this book must 'become an inaugural step' towards recasting spaces to view and engage with visual art. This volume, rich with illustrations and containing writings spanning genres from fiction to philosophy to art historical commentary, is a critical read for any student of art history. Using K Venkatappa's life and work as a case study, it allows the reader to travel through India and Karnataka's many cultural and political transitions across the 20th century.



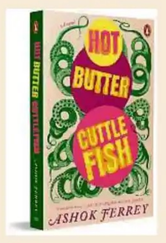
Veteran artist K Venkatappa.
(DH ARCHIVES)

MOODBOARD

Voices from across the border often mirror our own anxieties, histories and hopes. Here are three new releases from compelling authors from Pakistan and Sri Lanka:

Rebel English Academy by Mohammed Hanif (Penguin):
In Hanif's latest darkly funny satire, Pakistan is coming into modernity, struggling under martial law after the execution of its former leader. A vibrant cast of interconnected characters face this changing landscape with violence, passion, and the occasional sharp humour. Wry, searing, and deeply relevant, this is a triumphant new novel from the acclaimed author.

Hot Butter Cuttle Fish by Ashok Ferrey (Penguin):
Recovering from an unhappy marriage, personal trainer Malik relocates to the village of Kalabola, nestling snugly in the armpit of Sri Lanka's largest lake. When Covid strikes, the villagers are mortified. What have they done to deserve this very personal insult? In this deliciously dark Sri Lankan romantic comedy, the lines between hero and villain are smudged.



This Is Where The Serpent Lives by Daniyal Mueenuddin (Penguin):
A stunning new work from the Pakistani author whose debut short story collection won the Story Prize and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, this collection evokes contemporary feudal Pakistan. Mueenuddin's characters struggle to choose between paths that are moral and just and more worldly choices that allow them to survive in the systems of caste, capital, and social power that so tightly grip their culture.

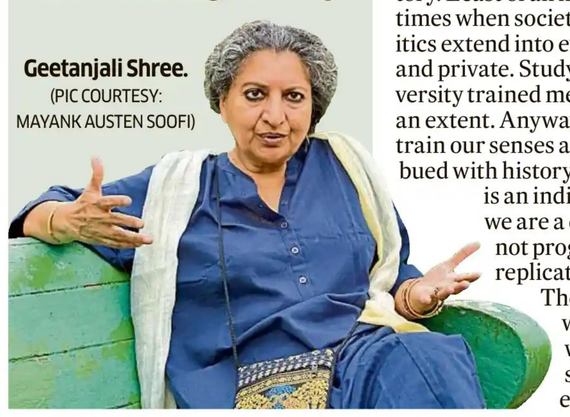
Mood Board *is a column that presents thematic lists of books on hot-button topics.*

INTERVIEW

'Creativity has its own mysterious dynamic'

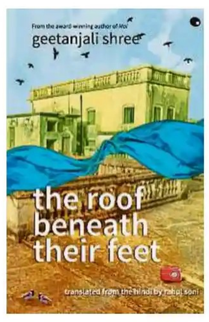
In a chat with Dushyant, International Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree talks about dealing with the avaricious market, writing and confronting history

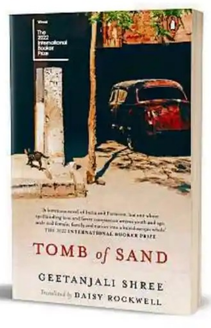
When a writer receives a major prize, curiosity naturally follows: what will they write next, and in whose voice? Hindi literature's celebrated storyteller Geetanjali Shree, whose novel *Ret Samadhi* (translated by Daisy Rockwell with the title Tomb of Sand) won the International Booker Prize in 2022, has just released her first work since that triumph, *Sah-Sa*. Seizing the moment, *DHoS* engaged her in a conversation about her craft and the world around her. *Excerpts*



Geetanjali Shree.
(PIC COURTESY: MAYANK AUSTEN SOOFI)

Has winning the Booker Prize changed you, as a writer and as a person?
Any experience brings about change and hones your sensibility. Booker was huge, and it extended my world of literature across new borders, and that has brought much fulfilment and inspiration. Booker also brought me face-to-face with the avaricious market and the ugly side of competitiveness and jealousies that anyone's success evokes. But all told, it has been a positive change for me as a writer and person, and the struggle now is to balance my new hectic public life with the solitude I had pre-Booker.





This novel was written after your Booker win. How much mental pressure did you feel while writing it, and did you approach it differently than before?
Creative pressure comes from within, not from outward successes such as the Booker win. A desire to unravel the world, an impulse to make coherent shapes from the tangled chaos life inherently is, a wish to dialogue with the self and the world, a curiosity to pull out hidden strands from your deepest recesses, and the willingness to face what gets revealed, these are the real pressures which fuel a writer and off she goes on paths unknown, seeking to give voice and words to inarticulations. Booker can enthuse you, but any tension it may create is superficial and not the source of your creativity. Another thing: creativity has its own mysterious dynamic, and you cannot consciously set a benchmark and decide the next work will be nothing less. Each time it is a fresh beginning, and you can only try your best and let that inner propeller move you aesthetically, powerfully, and hope the magic created will work again.

"Sah-Sa" is being described as a love saga. Do you agree?
For sure. About losing the connection with loved ones and wondering where and when things changed. The fragility of love, and the imminence of loss in the inane rat-race of today. Or a tale of the ephemera of life and death. Sad and absurd. Or about the irony of our seeing, missing what is right in front and seeing it everywhere when it is not there. But readers, too, will define the story.

You stand at the intersection of history and literature. As a history student, you likely view the present through a unique lens. In your view, has the concept of love evolved in the new century?
There is no getting away from history. Least of all in these troubled times when society, history, and politics extend into every space, public and private. Studying history at university trained me for it formally, to an extent. Anyway, all experiences train our senses and are always imbued with history. But each one of us is an individual, even when we are a community, and not programmed robots, replicating each other. There are as many ways as there are writers, telling the same stories forever, each with her own unique stamp. Since Eve and Adam, love and its myriad threads are the same, but each love story is unique.

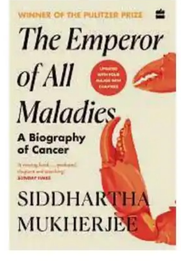
The novel includes an evening-party scene with engaging dialogue, which feels stylistically distinct from the rest of the work. Was that written spontaneously or deliberately planned?
What may appear different from the rest in style is nonetheless part of the overall 'choreography' of a novel. Dissonances shape literature as much as flowing rhythms. As for 'spontaneous' or 'deliberate', in art and literature, every work is a performance, and therefore deliberate. Even the spontaneous is deliberate. Seemingly natural is artfully contrived, and vice versa, thereby readying a whole creative entity. A break in style, looking a trifle unnatural, leaves an impact. Its oddness gives it an unusual character and invites attention. Simple harmonious flow and obvious realism are not the only ways to bring about meaning.

READ OF THE WEEK

The story of cancer is a human one — a tale of chance discoveries, seized opportunities and human endurance. From innovative early surgeries to the Curies' ultimately tragic work with radiation, from Sidney Farber's hugely risky discovery of chemotherapy to the author's treatment of his own patients, The Emperor of All Maladies is a profound and revelatory portrait of an enigmatic disease humans have lived with, and perished from, for more than 5,000 years.

In this updated edition of Siddhartha Mukherjee's instant classic, four new chapters reveal what has changed in the universe of cancer in the years since the book was first published. With moving eloquence, he offers an insight into our evolving understanding of cancer's causes and the emerging, revolutionary new treatments that might shape its future, including those that Mukherjee himself has helped devise.

Siddhartha Mukherjee is a physician, researcher, and acclaimed author of The Emperor of All Maladies, The Laws of Medicine, The Gene, and The Song of the Cell. An associate professor of medicine at Columbia University, he has published widely in Nature, The New England Journal of Medicine, Cell, and The New Yorker. He lives in New York with his wife and daughters.



Women are constantly told to stay silent about sexual abuse because more than anything else, it is inconvenient. While perpetrators often get away, survivors feel a sense of hopelessness, writes Arundhati Ghosh

Conspiracy of SILENCE

Complaints against sexual abuse are treated as ugly, embarrassing and vexing.

It has been a few deeply disturbing weeks of reading the deluge of horror pouring out of the Epstein files. But no matter how nauseous it makes me, I am alarmed that it does not surprise me. How much despair and cynicism I must hold in me to continue reading the testimonies with this stoicism! Like a person witnessing inevitable consequences of the savagery of power and normalisation of sexual abuse that we learn quite early in life. For if the Epstein files are the most expansive and utterly despicable show on earth of how rich entitled men wield power to enslave, humiliate and assault hundreds of women and children, they are also brutally honest evidences of our relationship of servitude with power and compromises we make with sexual abuse. But it starts much closer home than in elusive private islands of billionaires — in our own families, schools and workplaces, with the complicity of those who are meant to love and protect us.

Every time we fail to respond to a child who is feeling uncomfortable with an adult and do not recognise the fear in their inability to express, we are disregarding their call for help against some kind of abuse. In our homes when women, and in rare occasions men, garner the courage to complain of sexual assaults by members or friends of the family we quickly drown them in consolatory mumbles and requests of silence for the sake of honour and harmony in the family. Sometimes the complainant is suspected to have an ulterior motive. In our attempts to maintain the status quo of family dynamics, these grievances are trivialised and forgotten. The survivor takes away three worthy lessons — nobody believes the survivor, power will always prevail, and the most heart-breaking of all — nobody really cares. For perpetrators too there are lessons — they will, most often, get their way and get away. The benefit of doubt will always be with them because they make the systems and they run it. Going back to the Epstein files, a single reading of the letter Noam Chomsky wrote to Jeffrey Epstein tells you who he chose to believe.

TIES AND KNOTS

Sexual interactions as power play

Our relationships with power and sexual abuse is further problematised through our encounters with sex in schools and colleges. Ideas received from pornography and popular culture are deeply mired in heteronormativity, patriarchy and prejudice. Girls are taught guilt and shame while boys are trained in power and authority. Neither is guided on the pleasures of intimacy. Sexual interactions become what men must do to prove their domination and women must endure to sustain relationships. Violence meted out and indignity suffered become embedded in experiences of sexual engagement. There is neither language nor space to articulate abuse let alone seek redressal.

The impunity of power and normalisation of sexual abuse gets worse in workplaces. Here our submission to those in control is absolute since our prospects are tied to their endorsements. Complaints against sexual assaults are treated as ugly, embarrassing and vexing. A spoke in the wheel of smooth functioning. Those who complain are viewed as trouble makers, out to upset stability providing apple carts and swiftly termed 'feminazis' with unsubstantiated anger or scores to settle with men. They are squeezed out of social circles and often side-lined from career advancements. Those who maintain silences aligning with power are typically rewarded. The signal is clear — speak and be damned. In most cases the perpetrators suffer little or no consequences. What the MeToo movement made glaringly evident was the exemptions from penalties with which abusers continue to function, bolstered by protections of systems and networks. In the rarest of cases where they receive reprimand, they return to their social circuits in no time and are welcomed back. This is true of every world — politics, business, the arts and culture, entertainment. When left liberal progressives criticise the garlanding of rapists by the right wing, they forget abusers amidst them that they have quietly reinstalled on pedestals.

FEEDBACK
Have something to say? Send your feedback and suggestions to arufeedback @gmail.com

For 'the greater good'

We live in a world where women are continuously told, taught and forced to stay silent about sexual abuse because more than anything else, it is inconvenient. Women mustn't complain because it ruins a man's life and career; or the time is not right as we are in the process of fighting bigger battles; or the man is an artist, athlete, or industrialist making glorious contributions to society. Women mustn't complain because their silence is for the greater good. And powerful men, the 'greater good', knows they have boundless impunity. Horrified as we are with the Epstein files, these men are the 'greater good', across business, politics, sports and culture, these are men we have celebrated for their power and success. Their rich lives and ruthless conquests of the world are legends of aspiration not warnings to beware of. We have seldom questioned the consequences of their actions in any sphere or asked about the impact on the affected. The survivors of the Epstein files spoke of their abuse for decades and no one listened. Let that sink in. It is therefore not a shocker that these men have not just committed sexual atrocities on hundreds but violated all limits of human depravity. Simply because they could and the world acquiesced.

I stay awake with the nightmares of the Epstein files as they continue to cascade into our lives. All I see is our complicity in creating a world order that enables this monstrosity. How shall we heal these wounds, dismantle the systems, rebuild from scratch – I am engulfed with questions I cannot answer. May be starting to question power inside the four walls of our homes is the only place to begin.

(This column navigates the various worlds of entangled relationships attempting to celebrate, cope with, and reimagine the meanings of our connections. Arundhati Ghosh is a writer, cultural practitioner, social activist, and traveller. All Our Loves: Journeys with Polyamory in India is her first book in English published by Aleph Book Company in 2025.)

Travel

Breukelen: A Dutch Whisper

The charming town of Breukelen in the Netherlands is markedly different from the edgy and happening Amsterdam. Rahul Sachitanand is taken in by the quiet hum of the Dutch town, where you don't need to chase bragging rights or bucket lists

Old-world windmills.

On a bright European summer's day, the air crackles with the aroma of shallots and garlic hitting hot oil. Then comes the caramelised whisper of kecap manis, the thick Indonesian soy sauce, with a fiery kick of galangal and coriander. We follow the inviting scent of coconut milk steeped in lemongrass and kaffir lime to an unexpected warung in the small town of Breukelen in the Netherlands. Tired of a week of bland European fare, we welcome the opportunity to reinvigorate our taste buds and explore a town where time seems to slow down and welcoming smiles linger.

In a world of tailored tourist checklists, the Dutch town of Breukelen, 20 km from the country's capital and tourist magnet Amsterdam, offers a rare respite from the unceasing sensory overload. Here, visitors can focus on presence over pressure and depth over detours to find that cutesy but over-Instagrammed café.

Stepping into a different world

Just 45 minutes by train from Amsterdam's noisy canal boats, art impresarios brushing up on their Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh, lies this town of some 10,000 people. Nestled along the gentle bends of the Vecht river lies a location that lent its name to the bustling borough of Brooklyn in New York but has a markedly different vibe.

Going from Amsterdam to Breukelen feels like stepping into another rhythm. At Amsterdam's Centraal Station, the mood buzzes with urgency. Trams rattle past cheese shops, bicycles weave between selfie-takers, while queues wind around canal cruises and museums. The train to Breukelen pulls away quietly, passing suburbs, flowering gardens, and a tapestry of canals and rivers. Before you had time to adjust, the train pulls into the quiet station and a short bus deposits you in the town centre. In a short time span, you're transported from chaos to calm, as you gently ease into a place where cobblestone lanes curve between historic homes and quiet cafés.

Breukelen, Brooklyn

In the 17th century, Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam (today's New York) named a modest outpost after their hometown of Breukelen.

While its American namesake has transformed into a magnet for street culture and reinvention, Breukelen has remained true to its essence.

The town offers many such picture-postcard-like scenes.
(PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

In the 17th century, Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam (today's New York) named a modest outpost after their hometown of Breukelen. Centuries later, that outpost became Brooklyn, one of New York's most recognisable boroughs. While its American namesake has transformed into a magnet for street culture and reinvention, Breukelen has remained true to its essence. If the town is slow-paced, picky tourists will be comforted by an array of eating options.

Eclectic culinary scene

Slow-paced but far from sleepy, the town offers a surprisingly diverse culinary scene. Besides the Indonesian warung, visitors can consider Turkish, Chinese, and classic Dutch food, ready to comfort even the pickiest palate. Try to be in Breukelen on Friday, when the weekly farmers' market is held, and the inviting scent of fresh, warm Stroop waffle makes you take a breather from your plans.

Of course, Breukelen isn't only about food. As is customary in the Netherlands, the town and its surroundings are best explored on two wheels. Slot Zuylen, a stately castle from the 1600s, still watches over the river like a patient matriarch. Within its walls, aristocratic lineage and literary salons unfold. Belle van Zuylen, an early feminist and sharp intellect, once lived and wrote here, questioning norms long before they became hashtags. Just beyond, the wooded elegance of Kasteel Nijenrode reveals medieval architecture behind foliage and ivy. A short ride away, the Loosdrechtse Plassen stretch wide with glinting waters and quiet inlets. Paddleboarders drift past nesting birds. Boats idle under open Dutch skies. It is a place where silence becomes scenic.

Sense of calm

To truly blend in with the locals, hire a small boat and drift slowly down the Vecht or even one of the small canals that dot the town. Cycling trails connect Breukelen to villages like Maarssen and Loenen aan de Vecht, as well as larger cities such as Utrecht, with all the mod-cons you may miss, by being based in Breukelen. Roll past flower fields, farms (some have friendly dogs, cafes, and sell food and drinks to visitors) and old-world windmills.

Even as we left Breukelen, what truly stayed with us was the sense of calm and warmth that radiated from the town's residents. The contrast with Amsterdam was striking. In 2024, the Dutch capital welcomed over ten million overnight guests, more than seven million of whom were international travellers. For us, popularity meant congestion. Navigating Dam Square in summer felt like crossing Koramangala at rush hour. The Rijksmuseum, with all its masterpieces, required timed entry and strategic planning. It felt like a pursuit, not a pleasure.

In contrast, Breukelen lets you absorb the surroundings at your own pace. In Dorpsstraat, ceramics, clocks, lace shawls, clothes and accessories, and books line sunlit shelves. Shop owners enjoy a relaxed chat, excited by the arrival of summer or the prospect of trading travel and life stories with strangers, who quickly become friends. Get yourself a cup of coffee and poke around the local stores or sit in the sun enjoying the quiet hum of a Dutch town, where you don't need to chase bragging rights or bucket lists. Breukelen does not rush. Perhaps that is its greatest luxury.

TOOLBOX

Tulips on your mind?

Think of the Netherlands and you invariably think of tulips. If you are planning a trip to Amsterdam and other Dutch towns, make sure to visit during the tulip season. April is the best time for tulip viewing although the season lasts from March to early/mid May.

- **Catch the tulip festival** at Amsterdam, and get to visit the Kuekenhof Gardens, open from March 19 to May 10. Then, there's the Tulip Barn in Hillegom, which is open from March 27 to May 10. Tickets are available on the respective websites of the two gardens.
- **Also not to miss is** Bloemencorso, which is a five-day celebration – this year, the celebrations will start on April 15, and you can catch colourful floral parades.
- **The parade starts** from Noordwijk, a town in the province of South Holland and ends at Haarlem in the North Holland province.
- **If you happen to be** in and around Breukelen, which is close to Bollenstreek, the bulb-growing region, you can catch views of the tulip fields.

(**Toolbox** *offers simple hacks to plan your travel better.)*

Stirring it up with some UMAMI

Even as bars across Bangkok, Hongkong, Tokyo, and Singapore experiment with intriguing ingredients in cocktails, Indian bars are not too far behind as they try new meat-based flavours, writes Chandreyi Bandyopadhyay

Chimbai at Sixteen33, Mumbai.

Jellyfish martini at Fura, Singapore.

Umami-rich cocktails:

What goes in

• Bacon fat wash	• Squid extract/ink
• Beef jerky	• Silk worm
• Chicken broth	• Mushrooms
• Prawn broth/ lobster jelly	• Egg whites
	• Jellyfish extract

Worm (L) and Squid (R) at Mahaniyom, Bangkok.

Although whisky sour always included egg whites, the first time I considered having a proper non-vegetarian cocktail was in Bangkok last year. An umami-rich flavour profile elevated the mouthfeel of the drink called 'Squid' at the Mahaniyom bar in the city. It is a blend of vodka, mezcal, and sake with dried squid, squid ink, clarified tomato juice and pickled ginger cordial in a Southeast Asian flavour. Nischal Suman, the beverage manager at Mumbai's popular Asian restaurant Gaijin was experimenting with seafood flavours in his drinks back in 2021. On the rising trend of incorporating non-vegetarian ingredients in cocktails, Suman says, "In the past few years alone, we've seen this fascinating trend shape up as bars boldly showcase innovative drinks and are leaning towards using meat and seafood."

Emergence of savoury cocktails

In the history of classic cocktails, savoury cocktails were not the biggest highlight ever, and neither did anyone think of making cocktails (typically meant for women) in palates other than sweetness. "A classic that sparked this movement for us at Gaijin was the Bullshot, a concoction of vodka, beef bouillon, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco, lemon, and seasoning," Suman says. A few years back, he did create a clear prawn head broth, clarified with egg shells and egg whites. "I paired this with vodka to create a frozen vodka martini at 0 degrees. The result was a beautifully balanced drink with extraordinary taste that left a lasting impression," he shared. And yet, the drink never made it to the cocktail menu at the time.

Sourav Singh, Founder of Pundit Cocktail, a Kolkata-based beverage consultant and an award-winning mixologist was an early caller to the trend. He created his first 'non-veg cocktail' in 2015 for the World Class bartending championship, featuring a pork belly fat-washed whiskey. At the time, Singh notes, "consumers in India barely had any awareness of the complex techniques and ingredients that could make their cocktails savoury. None of the bars I worked at were too willing to embrace such ingredients then."

With the World's 50 Best Bars list making the rounds on social media, urban consumers are increasingly becoming involved in tracking cocktail trends at the places they visit for work or holidays now. Interestingly, inspiration does not emerge only from global bars. At Bandra's neighbourhood bar Sixteen33, mixologist Denzil Franklin wanted to focus on the storytelling behind their signature cocktails celebrating the six villages from the vicinity that formed Bandra: Ranwar, Chimbai, Chuim, Pali, Sherly and Kantwadi. Chimbai, the coastal village inspires a savoury tipple with vodka, shrimp liqueur, watermelon and sea salt capturing the essence of Mumbai's Koli fishing community. Shahrom Oshtori, Partner and Founder, says, it is a cocktail-forward restaurant celebrating its local tradition, so every detail honours Bandra's bonds with its past and present.

Yet to gain wider reach

However, larger acceptance of the umami palate is yet to seep in among audiences, notes Manish Chauhan, Beverage Head at Massive Restaurants that helms brands like Pa Pa Ya and Farzi Café. Capturing their approach, he says, "we are exploring creative and savoury directions in our cocktail programme, including the use of ingredients like meat and animal fat. However, these approaches aren't about novelty for the sake of shock value, but are rooted in deep culinary principles."

Bold blends

- **Chimbai** is a savoury tipple that includes vodka, shrimp liqueur, watermelon and sea salt, capturing the essence of Mumbai's Koli fishing community.
- **Squid** is a blend of vodka, mezcal, and sake with dried squid, squid ink, clarified tomato juice and pickled ginger cordial.
- **Bullshot** is a concoction of vodka, beef bouillon, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco, lemon, and seasoning.

Chef Ali Akbar Baldiwala of Slink & Bardot has tasted some incredible savoury cocktails globally. "One of the best was a beef consommé cocktail by Jay Khan, the bartender from Coa in Hong Kong. I've also had drinks using chicken stock, beef jerky garnishes, and even dehydrated prawn or crab as cocktail accents. When used correctly, these ingredients create a rich, layered experience", he admits.

He further highlights the limitation of trying non-vegetarian ingredients in India due to cultural sensitivities. "The oldest savoury cocktail that comes to mind is the Bloody Mary. Since then, few have really explored savouriness in cocktails, but that's changing. Meats and seafood can work beautifully when used thoughtfully. Perhaps skip beef and pork, but seafood-based elements or umami ingredients like seaweed and mushrooms can add remarkable depth and character," Baldiwala opines. Asian bars and their popularity in cities like Bangkok, Hongkong, Tokyo and Singapore are driving the introduction of intriguing ingredients, and their Indian counterparts are also experimenting with this trend.

(This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to promote or condone the abuse of alcohol. Alcohol should be consumed responsibly and in moderation by individuals of legal drinking age.)

TAKE SIX

Bartenders at a recent world class competition presented their creative twists with whisky classics. Here are some fresh spins that'll make your cocktail orders that much more exciting.

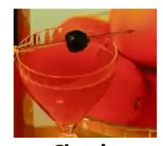
SARBANI MUKHERJEE
Conversation Room, Kolkata
Cocktail twist: Classic julep meets breakfast ritual using bread and jam clarified cordial replacing sugar
Ingredients:
- Scotch whisky - 50 ml
- Bread and jam cordial - 12.5 ml
- Mint leaves – 7 to 8
- Aromatic bitters - 5 drops

Classic julep with a twist.

DZIIPANE HESHO
&Co., Pune
Cocktail twist: Rob Roy with stout rice-cacao infused vermouth
Ingredients:
- Scotch whisky - 45 ml
- Stout rice vermouth - 20 ml
- Aromatic bitters - 1 dash

Rob Roy with vermouth.

MAANASH SHAHI
Bitters & Co, Kathmandu, Nepal
Cocktail twist: Classic Manhattan reinterpretation using gudpak (traditional Nepali sweet) infused whisky.
Ingredients:
- Gudpak infused Scotch whisky - 2 oz
- Dry vermouth - 0.5 oz
- Cherry as garnish



Classic Manhattan recreation.

Highball cocktail with tamarind twist

ANCY THOMAS OLICKEL
Mirth, Bengaluru
Cocktail twist: Highball using smoked Malabar tamarind
Ingredients:
- Scotch whisky - 45 ml
- Tamarind soda - 90 ml
- Pepper corn – 10 gm
- Marayoor cane jaggery - 120 gm
- Water - 170 ml
- Salt - 7 gm
- Agar agar - 1.5 gm
- Water for agar - 75 ml

STEPHEN
Mister Merchant's, Pune
Cocktail twist: Whisky sour featuring corn-cream foam
Ingredients:
- Scotch whisky 12 years - 45 ml
- Lemon juice - 25 ml
- Maple syrup - 25 ml
- Cocktail bitters - 2 dashes
- Homemade aromatic bitters - 2 dashes

Corn Foam: Corn water - 300 ml, Malic acid - 0.8 gm, Xanthum gum - 0.16 gm, Cellulose - 0.9 gm

Whisky sour with corn cream foam.

THAVISHA WIJESINGHE
Bommu Bar & Lounge, Kandy
Cocktail twist: Old fashioned with nutmeg-infused whisky and tamarind–jaggery balance
Ingredients:
- Nutmeg- infused Scotch whisky - 50 ml
- Tamarind juice - 25 ml
- Fresh lime juice - 25 ml
- Jaggery - 10 g (melted or dissolved)
- Garnish - caramelised tamarind flower

Whisky with tamarind, jaggery and nutmeg.

Anxiety, burnout, and depression are early symptoms of a mental health crisis but go unnoticed. These distress signs need attention and should not remain a woman's private struggle, writes Nishat Parwin

HEED SIGNALS, avert crisis

The WHO reports that over 581 million women worldwide live with mental health disorders, accounting for 53 per cent of population with such issues. In India, the National Mental Health Survey held a decade ago had found that women in the 40–59 age group experience some of the highest levels of disability associated with depression and anxiety.

Mental health among Indian women is often viewed through the lens of personal resilience and a "how much can she cope?" narrative. Yet anxiety, depression, and burnout are rarely signs of personal inadequacy. They are early signals of structural pressures, social inequities, and systemic neglect. Distress frequently receives attention only at the point of crisis, when symptoms become impossible to ignore. The need of the moment is to shift the national conversation: women's mental health must be understood as a public health imperative, not a private struggle hidden within families.

Structural roots of distress

Indian women shoulder a "double load" of responsibilities, blending caregiving responsibilities, emotional support, domestic duties and professional demands. Cultural ideals, such as the "perfect mother" or the "ideal daughter-in-law", normalise and encourage silent resilience. During the COVID-19 years, this imbalance became glaringly visible as mothers stepped into the role of "invisible frontline workers," managing children's schooling, care for older family members, and professional responsibilities simultaneously.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Patterns that emerge from women seeking support reinforce this structural burden. Many describe years of coping alone, with emotions eventually surfacing as fatigue, anxiety, irritability, or sleep disturbance, often long before these reach the threshold of a diagnosable condition. Distress builds gradually, not suddenly.

Data collected by a mental health initiative headquartered in Mumbai during surveys conducted in 2024–25 indicate that around 30 per cent of Indian women report symptoms of depression, while over 40 per cent report anxiety, yet only a fraction receive timely help.

Biological and life-cycle vulnerabilities

Biological transitions across a woman's life add another layer of vulnerability. Puberty, pregnancy or difficulties with conceiving or postpartum recovery, and menopause involve profound hormonal and emotional shifts. Yet the psychological dimensions of these transitions remain poorly understood and inadequately supported.

Insights from the initiative's programmes show that adolescent girls consistently report higher levels of internalising distress—manifesting as sadness, fear, low self-esteem, or academic pressure. Body image concerns, social comparison, and familial expectations influence their mental health early on which, if unaddressed on time, become triggers for mental health issues faced in later life.

Motherhood, too, brings a complex emotional journey often overlooked in public health. The developmental transition known as "matrescence" captures the identity shift that comes with motherhood, yet few women have the language or support to navigate it.

Barriers to care

In spite of increased awareness, access to mental health care remains uneven. Services are concentrated in urban centres, affordability is a challenge, and within households, women's health is often deprioritised due to caregiving responsibilities or limited resources. Cultural stigma compounds these barriers. Many women internalise beliefs like, "good mothers don't complain," or "I should be grateful, not tired." These deeply ingrained intergenerational messages discourage help-seeking until symptoms escalate into crisis. This intensifies suffering and increases the burden on the healthcare system.

Signals from the front lines

Real-world interactions across helplines, schools, and community mental health settings offer critical insights into how distress manifests among women:

- Women often reach out anonymously, suggesting that stigma and fear of judgement shape their help-seeking behaviour.
- Callers frequently report prolonged emotional fatigue, linked to caregiving overload, relational stress, or cumulative life strain.
- Working women describe burnout and chronic exhaustion, reflecting lack of flexibility in organisations, taking a toll on them as they balance professional expectations and caring responsibilities.
- Adolescent girls voice rising anxiety, especially around academics, social pressure, and the uncertainty of transitions.
- Many women seek help only after months or years of silent endurance, revealing how distress is normalised until it becomes acute.

These patterns, consistent across contexts, underline the need to recognise early signals rather than waiting for a crisis.

Mental health integration into primary care

A practical and scalable solution lies in embedding mental health into primary healthcare systems. Maternal health check-ups, routine gynaecology visits, and adolescent health assessments offer natural points for early screening. When frontline health workers are trained to recognise early signs of anxiety, depression, or chronic stress, intervention can begin before symptoms escalate.

Such integration is cost-effective and culturally attuned. Even brief psychoeducation on sleep, stress management, or emotional regulation can reduce distress and encourage further help-seeking.

Policy imperatives

- A National Perinatal Mental Health Policy to ensure supportive care during pregnancy and postpartum transitions.
- Investment in mental health infrastructure and workforce, particularly in underserved regions.
- Routine mental health screening as part of primary and maternal healthcare.
- Public awareness campaigns that dismantle stereotypes around resilience and motherhood.
- Flexible workplaces to support women with caregiving responsibilities at work and affordable childcare.
- Gender-responsive budgeting, acknowledging life-cycle vulnerabilities.
- Consistent data collection across community and school settings to inform policy and programme design.

From crisis to prevention

Women's mental health cannot remain a silent, private concern within households. Distress almost always begins subtly through fatigue, sleep disruptions, irritability, or emotional withdrawal. Recognising these early signals demands a preventive, gender-sensitive public health lens.

(The writer is a psychologist and senior manager at a leading mental health initiative headquarted in Mumbai.)

MYTHBUSTER

Microwaving food: Good or bad?

In spite of microwaves being widely used, there are always naysayers pointing out that food cooked in a microwave is not good for heath, and that the process destroys all nutrients. That, however, remains in the realm of a myth, and is not backed by science.

In reality, microwaving preserves nutrients. In fact, it retains more minerals and vitamins than frying or even boiling because the cooking process is not long drawn. The use of water is also minimal.

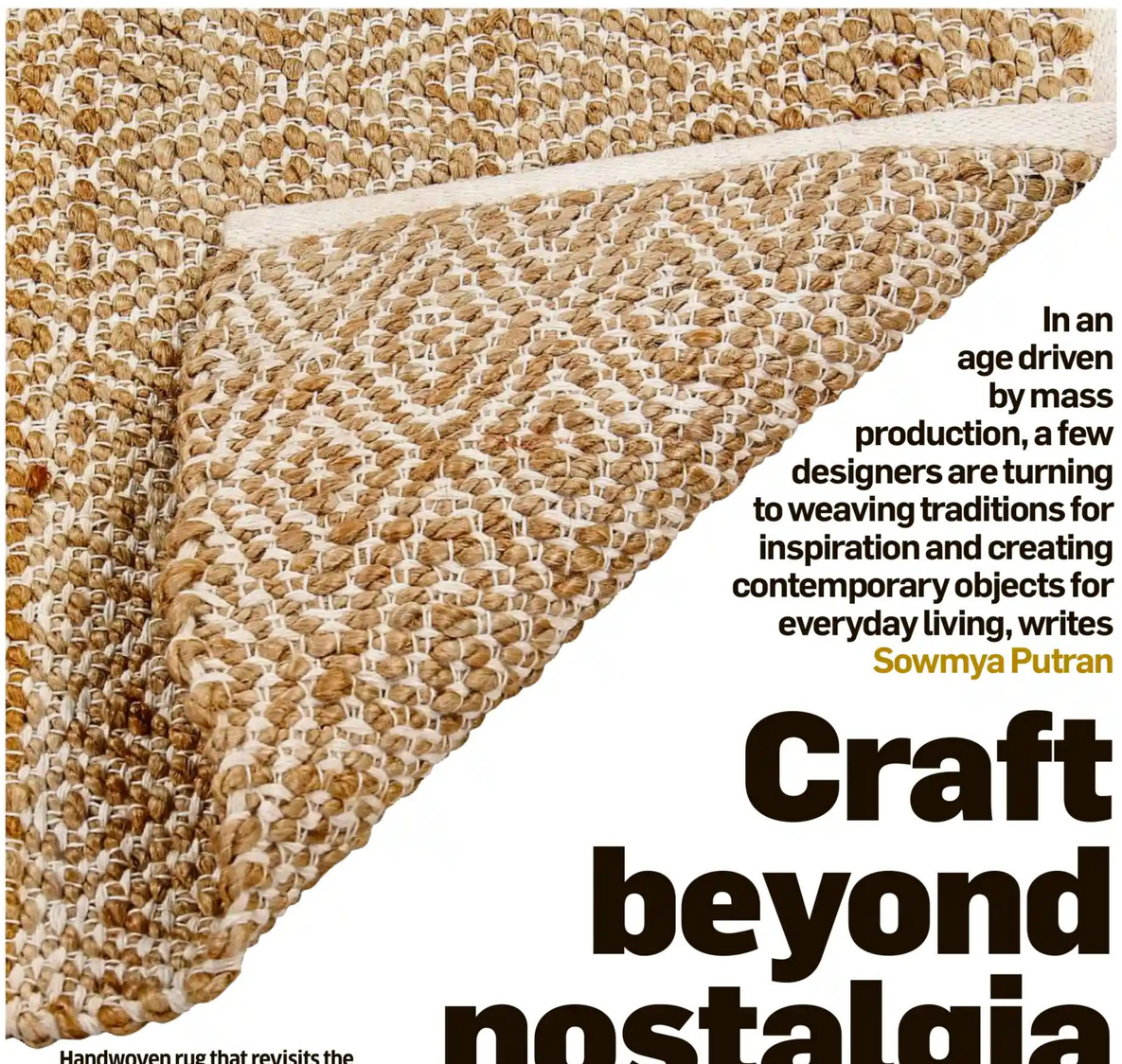
According to a 2022 article in 'Frontiers in Nutrition', microwaves have the ability to boost the antioxidant characteristics of protein in food. The article also notes that using a microwave not only prevents the loss of vitamins A and C but also reduces the thermal degradation of vitamins such as B1 and B6.

Yet another study in 2023 conducted in Bangladesh and published in the 'Heliyon', an open access journal, states that the most negative impact on "biochemical compounds, mineral and heavy metal content" comes from boiling. The study adds that microwave cooking retains nutrients, such as beta carotene.

Further, it concludes that while microwave cooking preserved the nutritional value of vegetables the best, steaming had a "moderate" impact. According to a 2020 study, microwave meals retained 3.8 mg more vitamin C than meals that were heated in a conventional oven.

It helps to follow certain safety measures while using microwaves for cooking, though. Using ceramic or glass, and containers that come with a 'microwave-safe' label goes a long way in preventing release of chemicals into food.

Curated by Savitha Karthik
*(**Mythbuster** picks up a popular wellness belief and examines if it is true, false or somewhere in between.)*



Handwoven rug that revisits the diamond lattice, one of the oldest motifs in Dhurrie weaving.

In an age driven by mass production, a few designers are turning to weaving traditions for inspiration and creating contemporary objects for everyday living, writes Sowmya Putran

Craft beyond nostalgia

Beevi Pai swing in the Pathamadai Pai tradition.

A cabinet (Banu Pai) that revives Tamil Nadu's Pathamadai Pai tradition.
PIC COURTESY: DESIGN NI DUKAAN

EYE ON DESIGN

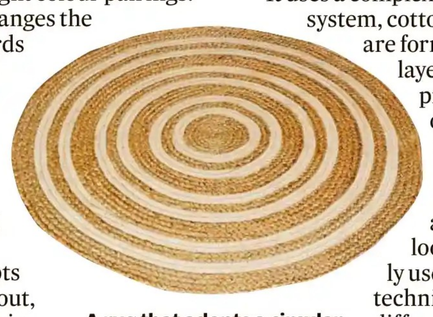
In a design landscape driven by mass production, weaving insists on a slower tempo. Each piece bears the marks of hands at work. Today, designers are doing something more pointed than a nostalgic revival. They are fusing fading weaving traditions into contemporary furniture and décor. The results are distinctive.

Dhurrie geometry

Su-Kham Home, a sustainability-led studio helmed by Komal Bhargava, works closely with India's material legacies. Among their designs is a handwoven rug that revisits the diamond lattice, one of the oldest motifs in Dhurrie weaving. The stepped geometry of the lattice comes from a tight warp-and-weft colour interlock.

The rug was made in Bengal, which instinctively led to the use of jute, a fibre long used in daily life across the region. Traditionally, Dhurries are made in cotton or wool with bright colour pairings. Using jute changes the palette towards muted tones.

The exploration of traditional geometry moves beyond the grid in another rug that adopts a circular layout, with concentric circles drawn from basketry traditions. In this interpretation, the circles echo the continuity of craft and the cycles of life. Across both rugs, jute and cotton are braided together, creating variations in texture that make the handwork visible.



A rug that adopts a circular layout, with concentric circles drawn from basketry traditions.
PIC COURTESY: SU-KHAM HOME

The same approach extends to furniture. The collection's Dori dining bench revives the Dori weaving technique traditionally used in khatias and charpais, where cords are stretched and woven tightly across wooden frames. "Dori weaving has never been about decoration," says Bhargava. "It's about rhythm and repetition." The weaving wraps the minimalist bench frame, letting the craftsmanship take visual focus.

Textiles as architecture

A multi-disciplinary studio, Design ni Dukaan, approaches design as collective and collaborative.

Roop Aroop, their furniture collection, is built around the idea: craft is alive. Roop stands for form, while Aroop captures the essence embedded in each piece. At the heart of the collection led by Dolly Thakkar is Sujani weaving from Gujarat, a near-extinct textile practice kept alive by a single artisan lineage.

It uses a complex double-cloth system, cotton-filled pockets are formed by shifting layers of weft, a process that demands two artisans working in perfect synchrony on a specialised loom. Traditionally used for quilts, the technique takes on a different role here as a foldable architectural partition.

"The design transports the craft from its domestic origins into a contemporary spatial context," notes Thakkar.

Sunlight diffusing through the cotton pockets gives the partition a translucence. The embroidered patterns are composed so that multiple panels can connect visually when opened.

The Gyaan Peeu study table features handles made using zero-waste fabric flower technique.

The collection also revives Tamil Nadu's Pathamadai Pai, a fading grass-mat craft traditionally used in homes and temples. Each mat begins with harvested grass that is softened, split into fine strands, woven tightly, compacted, edge-stitched, and polished with a pumice stone.

In the Banu Pai cabinet and Beevi Pai swing, the mat is transformed into a structural surface. In the cabinet, the weave sits framed within slim teakwood shutters. For the swing, the mats are affixed to a teak frame, forming the seat and back. By turning a traditional floor mat into a three-dimensional object, the designers give the craft a new scale.

The Gyaan Peeu study table features handles made using Button Masala, a zero-waste fabric flower technique by fashion designer Anuj Sharma. Buttons and rubber bands are woven into tactile forms without cutting or sewing. The buttons act as attachment points, and rubber bands do the binding instead of needles and thread.

Textures of Pattu weaving

Nimmit, a studio led by Manish Shah, works closely with India's artisan communities. They are reinterpreting a heritage craft of Rajasthan's Meghwal community: Pattu weaving.

The technique uses a pit loom, a wooden frame set over a shallow pit in the ground. The weaver sits low. Their feet handle the threads below as their hands pass the yarn back and forth above. Its geometric motifs might seem like simple decoration, but each pattern holds purpose. They are created through counted weft insertions and calculated thread tension, giving the fabric strength and weight. Every movement matters in shaping the texture: the tension, the order of the threads, the spacing of the motifs.

For the Pattu-inspired cushions, the designers play with scale while keeping the weaving technique original. Vertical stripes span the fabric, shifting between fine and bold motifs. A black-and-white colour scheme keeps the focus on the craft.

India's natural materials and traditional craft techniques offer a smart alternative to mass-produced furniture. Using these crafts in everyday life rather than just admiring them does two things. First, it keeps these old skills alive by turning generations of know-how into objects we can actually use. Second, it gives artisans' work a bigger stage through modern pieces like folding partitions, swings, and cabinets. It also helps people observe the texture, touch the pieces, and see the care and skill that goes into making each one.

MELODY MAKERS

'The sarod speaks a language brimming with raw emotion'

In a chat with Swarna Srikanth, sarod maestro Tejendra Narayan Majumdar speaks of the bond he shares with his instrument and how Indian music is perceived globally

Amid an era of thumping beats and electronic soundscapes, Padma Shri Tejendra Narayan Majumdar stands out for keeping the sarod's serene, soulful voice alive. In a conversation with *DHoS*, the globally acclaimed virtuoso recalls his Padma moment, speaks of the bond he shares with his instrument, its evolving expression today, and cherished memories with his guru Ustad Ali Akbar Khan Sahib and more. *Excerpts*

What was it like to be honoured with the Padma Shri? Are you content with your achievements, or is it 'dil maange more'?
When I first heard about the Padma Shri, I felt a deep sense of gratitude. It was unexpected, and for a moment, I simply sat quietly, thinking of my Gurus, my parents, and all those who shaped my journey. Awards are milestones, of course, but they are also reminders of responsibility. Am I content? I'm grateful, yes — but the heart always wants to grow, to explore, to dig deeper. *Dil maange more* in the sense of seeking more music, more understanding, more truth.

Tejendra Narayan Majumdar during a performance.

In recent times, where loud bar-hitting music and electric beats are gaining popularity, how do you keep the sarod, a quaint instrument, alive?
The sarod doesn't need to compete with anything. Its power lies in its depth. I simply try to present it with honesty. When music is genuine, people listen — even in a world full of electronic beats. authenticity has its own volume.

If your instrument could speak, what would it tell us about you and your love for it?
If my sarod had a voice, I think it would say that our relationship is one of companionship. We have travelled through joy, doubt, exhaustion, discovery —everything. It knows my inner world more than anyone else. It would probably complain about the hours of *riyaaz* but also smile at the love with which I return to it every day.

Any changes in how the sarod is performed over the years?
I see a growing openness in how the sarod is being explored — new textures, collaborative formats, fresh presentation styles. At the same time, some younger musicians are returning to long-form *alaap* and deeper raga exploration. So it's a fascinating mix of innovation and revival.

How different is the sarod from other stringed instruments?
Every stringed instrument has its beauty, but the sarod speaks a language of raw emotion that is very close to the human voice. The sarod's voice is both robust and introspective. The metal fingerboard, the resonance, the *meend* — it creates a powerful yet meditative sound.

Do you consider being born in a family of musicians a blessing?
It was a blessing. Not because it made things easier, but because music was the air I breathed. The discipline, the atmosphere, the respect for art — these values are absorbed naturally.

Thoughts on gharana culture?
Gharanas were never meant to restrict; they were meant to preserve depth. A solid grounding in a gharana gives you roots. Once those are strong, your branches can grow freely. I welcome evolution, but I believe the essence of a tradition must remain intact.

How can audiences enjoy the sarod better?
The sarod reveals itself slowly. To appreciate it fully, listen for the micro-tones, the *meend*, the mood shaping each phrase. Give it a little patience, and it will speak to you very intimately.

From your experience, how is Indian music perceived abroad today?
International audiences approach Indian music with great respect and curiosity. They may not know the technicalities, but they connect deeply with the emotion. Sometimes their openness surprises me — they listen without preconceived notions.

What does music mean to you?
Music is a form of truth. It helps me understand myself and the world around me. And yes, it is one of the ways I connect with the divine — through surrender, through stillness, through sound.

A raga that you cherish.
Many ragas speak to me at different times, but Darbari, Shree, and Hemant have a way of centring me. They carry a profound inner silence.

What would you tell young instrumentalists?
My Guru taught me that *riyaaz* is not just practice — it is a way of life. Do it with patience, discipline, and respect. The rest will follow.

DISCOVER INDIAN ART

Tracing the journey of India's animal fables

While the first Arabic version of the Kalila wa Dimna dates to the eighth century, it is inspired by a collection of stories that go back even further — the Panchatantra

A bestseller for almost 2,000 years, Kalila wa Dimna is a collection of 15 animal fables featuring two jackals, the eponymous Kalila and Dimna, as narrators from the court of the animal king, Bankala the lion. Their adventures with other anthropomorphised animals offer allegories for human morality and life. While the first Arabic version of the Kalila wa Dimna dates to the eighth century, it is inspired by a collection of stories that go back even further — the Panchatantra, the origins of which have been traced to the Indian subcontinent in 200 BCE.

As the story goes, King Amarashakti entrusted his wise old advisor, identified as Vishnusharma in the prelude of the Panchatantra, to teach the principles of just governance and conduct of life to his three sons. Vishnusharma wrote a series of stories centred around animal protagonists to impart lessons on holistic and honourable conduct, which together form the Panchatantra.

Centuries later, in around 550 CE, a Persian physician, Borzuya, was sent to India by the Sassanid king, Khosrow I, to find a plant that could revive the dead. Borzuya learned that what he was seeking was actually the Panchatantra, which he then translated into Pahlavi, a Middle Persian language. In around 750 CE, Persian scholar Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa translated the Pahlavi text into Arabic. Titled Kalila wa Dimna, it is considered to be the first masterpiece of Arabic literary prose by scholars. It became very popular throughout the Islamic world and beyond. From the 10th to the 14th centuries, its translations into Old Spanish, Greek, Latin, Old Church Slavic, German, Hebrew, Turkish and other languages were often patronised and overseen by royal courts. Over time, this repertoire of stories inspired other 'frame' narratives, tales embedded within a larger story — Boccaccio's 14th-century The Decameron, Chaucer's 14th-century The Canterbury Tales, and the African American oral tradition of Br'er Rabbit, among others.

'Kalila Upbraiding Dimna', Folio from a Kalila wa Dimna; Gujarat, 16th century. (Pic courtesy: The Met)

'Leopard Bearing Lion's Order to Fellow Judges', Folio 51, Gujarat, 16th century. (Pic courtesy: The Met)

'The Flight of the Tortoise', Folio from a Kalila wa Dimna, Gujarat, 16th century. (Pic courtesy: The Met)

(Anvar-i Suhayli); Husayn Va`izi, Kashifi, Agra 1595. (Pic: Chester Beatty Library)

Illustrations of Kalila wa Dimna appear across different medieval and early modern folios. There is an illustrated episode of an innocent bull being killed by the king lion while Kalila and Dimna watch in shock. Another depicts the king of crows conferring with his royal council. These narratives offer lessons on greed, friendship, loyalty, leadership, kindness and more.

Each translation and adaptation of the Kalila wa Dimna was created in different socio-political contexts, and scholars contend that the works, while remaining true to the spirit of the original, also reflect the specific concerns of the time. We can read all its variants as part of a network of transformations and cultural exchanges that took place in history. This process continues today with versions of both the Kalila wa Dimna and the Panchatantra still being sold as fables and stories for children all over the world.

Chandrica Barua, MAP Academy

Discover Indian Art *is a monthly column that delves into fascinating stories on art from across the subcontinent, curated by the editors of the MAP Academy. Find them on Instagram as @map_academy*

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Vishweshwariah Layout

SMV LAYOUT 2nd_BLOCK 20x30 WEST_FACE, BUILDER_LOCATION, SITE_FOR_SALE. Call: 9164089633, 9663226688.

DIRECT OWNER 40x60 E/F Site Sale VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT BLOCK-1 Behind 100ft-Road, Bank loan Available. 9742681666

RAILWAY LAYOUT 2nd Stage, West South Corner, 1170_Sqft. Near Vidhyanikethan School Ullal_Road. BDA-KHATHA. Call: 9164089633.

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WANTED SITE ANJANAPURA BCCHS_Layout Narayan`Nagar Jayanagar Housing Society, Banashankari 6th`Stage 30x40,40x60. Direct_Registration. Broker_Excuse. Call:9663454878

Banashankari

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Multiple Locations

WANTED BDA Sites Anjanapura-Arkavathi, Banashankari 6th stage, Vishweswaraiah, Kempegowda, Dr. Shivaramkaranth Layout. Contact: Sapthagiri "(Opposite BDA Head Office) "9036360366.

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KHADIR PASHA** S/o Mastan Sab, residing at 3rd Cross, Medahalli Parvathi Nagar, Opp. Masjid, Virgo Nagar, Bengaluru - 560049, have changed my name to **KADHIR PASHA** vide affidavit dated 20-02-2026 before notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **KADHIR PASHA** only

I, YASMEEN BHANU #7, 3rd Cross, SP Naidu Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Dooravaninagar, Bengaluru-16 have changed my name to NYANA MARY vide affidavit dated-21/02/2026

I, LAKSHMI R. Old- 120, New- 48, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Kanakadasa Layout, Lingarajapuram, Thomas Town, Bengaluru-84, have changed my name to ADRIANA LORRAINE vide affidavit dated- 21/02/2026

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Vagish Srinivasaraghavachar Govindarajan,** R/a BS-202, Ideal Sky View, 999A/B, Ideal Homes Society, R R Nagar, Bengaluru - 560098, have changed my name to **VAGISH GOVINDARAJAN** vide affidavit dated 21-02-2026 before notary V Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **VAGISH GOVINDARAJAN** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **M. Raveendra,** residing at No.22, Skanda 4th Cross, M.L.A Layout, Lottegollahalli, Bengaluru - 560094, have changed my minor son's name from **Rohith Vaishnav R** to **R. Rohith Vaishanav**, vide affidavit dt: 21.02.2026 before notary XXXVIII Addl.Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru. Henceforth, he shall be called as **R. Rohith Vaishanav** only.

I, JAWAHARALAL Parishnath Doddanavar S/O Parisappa Bassappa Doddanavar , have changed my name to Jawaharlal Parisappa Doddanavar vide affidavit dated 19/02/2026 at Bengaluru.

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KABR05-000079-2024 **PKABR050000792024_5_1**

Senior Division Hoskote-As per order dated 2/2/26, this court is directed to inform strictly to the Nazar branch to execute the same
Appendix E, No. 24
PRL. DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE
IN THE COURT OF NANJE GOWDA M C
Commercial Court, BENGALURU RURAL, BENGALURU RURAL.
ATTACHMENT IN EXECUTION, PROHIBITORY ORDER, WHERE THE PROPERTY CONSISTS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
[O. 21, R. 54.]
Com.Ex.30/2024
Artha Real Estate Corporation Limited (Now subtituted by Bennet Property Holdings Company Limited) Vs N. Venkatasubbaraju
NEXT DATE: 25-02-2026

To,
N. Venkatasubbaraju
52
S/o Late Mr. Venkataraju aged 45 years, R/at.No.23, 7th Cross, 5th Main, Krishnappa Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore

WHEREAS you have failed to satisfy a decree passed against you on the, in Suit No., in favour of Artha Real Estate Corporation Limited (Now subtituted by Bennet Property Holdings Company Limited), Age: 0, Address: No. 110/37, Solitare Building Service Road, Outer Ring Road, Marthahalii, Bangalore-560037. Karnataka-India
Office 5th floor Times tower, Kamala Mills, Compound Senapati Bapat Marg, Lowe parel, Mumbai Maharashtra India. for Rs 17,62,61,220-00 It is ordered that you, the said N. Venkatasubbaraju, be, and you are hereby, prohibited and restrained, until the further order of this Court, from transferring or charging the property specified in the schedule hereunto annexed, by sale, gift of otherwise, and that all persons be, and that they are hereby, prohibited from receiving the same by purchase, gift or otherwise.
It is also ordered that you should attend the Court on the 25-02-2026, to take notice of the date fixed for settling the terms of the proclamation of sale.
SCHEDULE

Schedule B Property containing 292 Plots formed out of Schedule A Property in Survey Number 25/3(Old No.25/2);26/1B;26/2;39/1;29/2;28/2,27/2,25/1;25/2; situated at Bagalur Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk - Bengaluru Rural District,

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 02-02-2026

X Addl. District & Sessions judge
Bengaluru Rural District,
Bengaluru
Signed on 04/2/2026

The Public are hereby notified that our Client Artha Real Estate Corporation Limited (ARECL), having office at No.110 / 37 & 258, "Solitare Building" Service Road, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Chinnappanahalli Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore 560037, Karnataka, India (Now substituted by Bennett Property Holdings Company Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act 2013, as per the De-Merger Order dated: 30-08-2018, and Rectified Order dated: 16-10-2018 passed by National Company Law Tribunal Bangalore Bench and as per De-Merger Order dated: 09-08-2018 passed by the National Company Law Tribunal Mumbai Bench, Having its Registered Office at 5th Floor, Times Tower, Kamala Mills Compound Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel Mumbai, Maharashtra (Client) (Developer), had entered into a Registered Joint Development Agreement dated: 09-04-2015 (JDA) Bearing Document. No. 269 / 15-16 duly registered before the Sub – Registrar Hoskote, with the Owner namely 1)Mr.N.Venkatasubbaraju, S/o Late. Mr. Venkataraju, Aged 45 years, Residing at No.23, 7th Cross, 5th Main, Krishnappa Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, India; 2)M/s.ASR Developers, a Proprietorship concern, represented by its sole proprietor Mr. N. Venkatasubbaraju, having its Registered Office at No.23, 7th Cross, 5th Main, Krishnappa Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore – 560032, Karnataka, India; (Owner) 3)Bhagyashree Developers, A Proprietorship Firm, Through its Proprietor Mr. Srinivas Raju, having its Registered Office at; No. 1, Shrihari Towers, 5th 'A' Main Road, Hebbal, Bangalore – 560024, Karnataka, India (Confirming Party). The Owner/s have also executed a General Power of Attorney dated: 31-03-2015 (GPA) authorizing Developer to commence the Development and Sale of 292 Residential Plots as a Residential Layout in the name and style "Artha Aspire" Phase II all contained in the converted Sy No. 25/3 (Old No. 25/2), Sy. No.26/1B. Sy. No. 26/2, Sy. No. 39/1, Sy. No.29/2, Sy. No. 28/2, Sy. No. 27/2, Sy. No. 25/1 and Sy. No. 25/2, in all measuring 17 Acres, 16 Guntas situated at Bagalur Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka, India. That during the development of the "Artha Aspire" Phase II, owing to certain disputes with the Owner and Developer, our Client initiated Arbitration proceedings against the Owner in AD. No. 2 / 2016 before the Arbitral Tribunal presided by the Arbitrators namely Justice B. Padmaraj Former Judge High Court Karnataka, Justice V. Jaganathan Former Judge High Court Karnataka and Justice L. Srinivas Reddy Former Judge High Court of Karnataka to act as the Presiding Officer, pursuant to which the Arbitral Tribunal passed Award dated: 04-03-2021 (Award) in favour of our Client directing the Owner to compensate the Developer and also injuncting the Owner not to alienate the Sites till the Award amount was fully paid to the Developer. The Owner has not appealed the Award which has now attainted finality. Our client thereafter initiated EP.No.30/2024 against the Owner / Judgment Debtor to enforce the Award which is pending adjudication on the file of the Honorable City Civil and Sessions Judge (Commercial Court) (Rural) At Bangalore (Honorable Court). During the adjudication the Honorable Court was pleased to attach all the sites as per EP.No.30/2024, including the Schedule Property herein vide Attachment Order dated: 12-09-2024 which was not contested thus becoming final and binding on the Owner / Judgement Debtors. The Public are notified that instead of fulfilling the Award and the claims raised by our Client as per EP.No.30/2024 the Owner / Judgment Debtors are now colluding with various persons to dispose and transact the Schedule Property contained herein by way of entering into agreement of sale, sale, lease / mortgage, and undertaking other ancillary transactions with third parties, with a malafide intention to defraud and cheat our Client and the Public thereby being in breach and in violation of the Award / Attachment Order dated: 12-09-2024; 03.12.2025 and 02-02-2026. The Public are notified that in the event there are any transactions/ agreements executed by the Owner with any third party concerning the Schedule Property contained herein, either through themselves or through his / their agents or attorney holders, the said Agreements are not binding on our Client as the same are illegal and fraudulent in nature and will be in violation of the executed Agreements executed with our Client. The Public / Banks / NBFC / Investors are herewith advised and cautioned not to be induced to enter into any Agreement to Sell, Sale, Lease, Mortgage, Exchange, advance loans, encumber or enter into any transactions concerning the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner, with the Owner or through their agents and attorney holders, since the below mentioned sites are attached vide Attachment Order dated: 12-09-2024; 03.12.2025 and 02-02-2026 and our Client has a admitted lien, secured charge, right, interest on a continuing basis concerning the Schedule Property failing which such of the transactions entered into shall not be binding on our Client in any manner and our Client shall be constrained to take appropriate legal actions against the transacting parties and the Owner including by way of damages and contempt proceedings before the Honorable Court.

Plot Nos.4,5,7,13,14,17,18,22,23,26,27,33,36,47,48,51,73,76,
82,83,86,87,90,92,93,96,99,102,103,104,105,108,109,112,113,114,134,136,143,144,145,148,149,152,153,154,155,158,161,162,165,166,168,169,175,176,177,196,197,206,207,208,211,212,214,215,217,218,221,222,230,232,233,236,237,239,240,245,246,247,249,255,256,258,259,262,263,265,268,269,271,274,275,277,278,281,284,285,288,290,291

N.K. Dilip / M. G. Nanjappa / Bibhas Kittur
Advocates:Tatva Legal Bangalore, 4th Floor, Phoenix Pinnacle, 46 Ulsoor Road, Bangalore 560042.

PUBLIC NOTICE

KABR05-000080-2024 **PKABR050000802024_4_1**

Senior Division Hoskote - As per order dated 2/2/26, this Court is directed to inform strictly to the Nazar branch to execute the same
Appendix E, No. 24
PRL. DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE
IN THE COURT OF NANJE GOWDA M C
Commercial Court, BENGALURU RURAL, BENGALURU RURAL.
ATTACHMENT IN EXECUTION, PROHIBITORY ORDER, WHERE THE PROPERTY CONSISTS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
[O. 21, R. 54.]
Com.EX./31/2024
Artha Real Estate Corporation Limited (Now substitued by Bennet Property Holdings Company Limited) Vs Bhagyashree Developers Through Proprietor Mr Srinivas Raju
NEXT DATE: 25-02-2026

To,
Bhagyashree Developers Through Proprietor Mr Srinivas Raju No. 1, Srihari Towers, 5th A Main Road, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024., KARNATAKA

WHEREAS you have failed to satisfy a decree passed against you on the, in Suit No., infavour of Artha Real Estate Corporation Limited (Now substitued by Bennet Property Holdings Company Limited), Age: 0, Address: No. 110/37, Solitare Building Service Road,Outer Ring Road, Marthahalli, Bangalore-560037
Office at 5th floor, Time Tower, Kamala Mills compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel Mumbai, Maharastra India. for Rs 17,63,02,867-00 It is ordered that you, the said Bhagyashree Developers Through Proprietor Mr Srinivas Raju, be, and you are hereby,prohibited and restrained, until the further order of this Court, from transferring or charging the property, specified in the schedule hereunto annexed, by sale, gift or otherwise, and that all personsbe and that they are hereby, prohibited from receiving the same by purchase, gift or otherwise.It is also ordered that you should attend the Court on the 25-02-2026, to take notice of thedate fixed for settling the terms of the proclamation of sale.
SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY CONTAINING 69 PLOTS FORMED OUT OF SCHEDULE A PROPERTY INSY.NOS,31/12,31/12, 31/14,36,37/1,37/2,38/3,39/3,40/5 AND 40/6 SITUATED AT Bagalur Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk - Bengaluru Rural District,

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 02-02-2026

X Addl. District & Sessions judge
Bengaluru Rural District,
Bengaluru
Signed on 04/2/2026

The Public are hereby notified that our Client Artha Real Estate Corporation Limited (ARECL), having office at No.110 / 37 & 258, "Solitare Building" Service Road, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Chinnappanahalli Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore 560037, Karnataka, India (Now substituted by Bennett Property Holdings Company Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act 2013, as per the De-Merger Order dated: 30-08-2018, and Rectified Order dated: 16-10-2018 passed by National Company Law Tribunal Bangalore Bench and as per De-Merger Order dated: 09-08-2018 passed by the National Company Law Tribunal Mumbai Bench, Having its Registered Office at 5th Floor, Times Tower, Kamala Mills Compound Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel Mumbai, Maharashtra (Client) (Developer), had entered into a Registered Joint Development Agreement dated: 09-06-2014 (JDA) Bearing Document. No. 1640/14-15 duly registered before the Sub–Registrar Hoskote, with the Owner namely 1)Bhagyashree Developers, a Proprietorship Firm, through its Proprietor Mr. Srinivas Raju, Major, having its Registered Office at; No. 1, Shrihari Towers, 5th 'A' Main Road, Hebbal, Bangalore – 560024, Karnataka, India. 2)Mr.N.Venkatasubbaraju, S/o Late. Mr.Venkataraju, Aged 52 years, Residing at No; No. 23, 7th Cross, 5th Main, Krishnappa Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, India; (Owner). The Owner/s have also executed a Registered General Power of Attorney dated: 09-06-2014 (GPA) authorizing Developer to commence the Development and Sale of 178 Residential Plots as a Residential Layout in the name and style "Artha Aspire" Phase I all contained in the converted Sy. No. 31/12, 31/12, 31/14, 36, 37/1, 37/2, 38/3, 39/3, 40/5, 40/6, in all measuring 16 Acres, 33 Guntas situated at Bagalur Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka, India. That during the development of the "Artha Aspire" Phase I, owing to certain disputes with the Owner and Developer, our Client initiated Arbitration proceedings against the Owner in AD. No. 1 / 2016 before the Arbitral Tribunal presided by the Arbitrators namely Justice B. Padmaraj Former Judge High Court Karnataka, Justice V. Jaganathan Former Judge High Court Karnataka and Justice L. Srinivas Reddy Former Judge High Court of Karnataka to act as the Presiding Officer, pursuant to which the Arbitral Tribunal passed Award dated: 06-05-2021 (Award) in favour of our Client directing the Owner to compensate the Developer and also injuncting the Owner not to alienate the Sites till the Award amount was fully paid to the Developer. The Owner has not appealed the Award which has now attainted finality. Our client thereafter initiated EP.No.31/2024 against the Owner / Judgment Debtor to enforce the Award which is pending adjudication on the file of the Honorable City Civil and Sessions Judge (Commercial Court) (Rural) At Bangalore (Honorable Court). During the adjudication the Honorable Court was pleased to attach all the sites as per EP. No. 31 / 2024, including the Schedule Property herein vide Attachment Order dated: 12-09-2024 which was not contested thus becoming final and binding on the Owner / Judgement Debtors. The Public are notified that instead of fulfilling the Award and the claims raised by our Client as per EP.No.31/2024 the Owner / Judgment Debtors are now colluding with various persons to dispose and transact the Schedule Property contained herein by way of entering into agreement of sale, sale, lease / mortgage, and undertaking other ancillary transactions with third parties, with a malafide intention to defraud and cheat our Client and the Public thereby being in breach and in violation of the Award / Attachment Order dated: 12-09-2024; 03.12.2025 and 02-02-2026. The Public are notified that in the event there are any transactions/ agreements executed by the Owner with any third party concerning the Schedule Property contained herein, either through themselves or through his / their agents or attorney holders, the said Agreements are not binding on our Client as the same are illegal and fraudulent in nature and will be in violation of the executed Agreements executed with our Client. The Public / Banks / NBFC / Investors are herewith advised and cautioned not to be induced to enter into any Agreement to Sell, Sale, Lease, Mortgage, Exchange, advance loans, encumber or enter into any transactions concerning the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner, with the Owner or through their agents and attorney holders, since the below mentioned sites are attached vide Attachment Order dated: 12-09-2024; 03.12.2025 and 02-02-2026 and our Client has a admitted lien, secured charge, right, interest on a continuing basis concerning the Schedule Property failing which such of the transactions entered into shall not be binding on our Client in any manner and our Client shall be constrained to take appropriate legal actions against the transacting parties and the Owner including by way of damages and contempt proceedings before the Honorable Court.

Plots:1,2,3,7,8,9,10,13,21,66,82,85,99,100,101,102,108,114,121,123,125,126,128,129,135,137,140,153,24,154,103,115,155,160,165,167,170,172,173,130,131,174,177,139,141,142,178,157,181,182,201,202,203,206,215,212,213,260,262,263,264,266,280,288,289,290,294,295,296

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